

THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Showers

SR 450 450

NEWS PAGE 7

THE BIGGEST
ART THEFT IN
THE WORLD

THE TABLOID

COMPREHENSIVE
RELIEF: ESCAPING
PUBLIC SCHOOL

THE TABLOID

WHY JEAN MULLE
IS STILL THE
DRESS TO BUY

The Queen bows to her subjects

Michael Streeter

The Queen will today broadcast to the nation her grief over the loss of Diana, Princess of Wales, as the Royal Family bowed to public criticism over their behaviour since Sunday's tragic death.

Although Palace officials insisted that the decision for the Queen to appear on television was one of many options "under discussion" all week, it came just hours after a round of criticism from the public and politicians via the media about their absence from the scenes of deep mourning at London palaces.

On an extraordinary day, the Palace responded to the criticisms made of it one by one, an apparent admission of its slowness to react to the outpouring of national grief. At the same time, the House of Windsor showed how stung it was in a statement issued by the Queen's press secretary Geoffrey Crawford. He said on television: "The Royal Family have been hurt by suggestions that they are indifferent to the country's sorrow at the tragic death of the Princess of Wales."

The concessions came thick and fast. In breach with Royal precedent, it was announced that tomorrow the Union flag will fly from Buckingham Palace at half mast after the Queen has left for the funeral service at Westminster Abbey. This meets the growing chorus of demands from many ordinary people who have complained that there has been no flag at all. Traditionally, only the Royal Standard is flown - and then only when the Queen is resident.

Later, Prince Charles appeared outside Balmoral with William and Harry, as they inspected floral tributes left by public; an apparent reaction to allegations of aloofness aimed at the family. As the young princes read the messages, the Queen stood apart from the rest of the royal party.

Meanwhile, Princes Andrew and Edward flew to London yesterday and staged a walkabout among mourners, countering complaints that the Royals have remained bunkered inside their Balmoral retreat while outside the nation grieves.

The Queen has also abandoned plans to take the Royal Train overnight from Balmoral and will fly to London today to prepare her broadcast - in time for the evening news bulletins - and then stay at Buckingham Palace. It is possible she could then pay her respects at Diana's coffin in the Royal Chapel and walk among the many mourners queuing at St James's Palace to sign books of condolence.

The establishment moved quickly yesterday to back the Palace, an acknowledgement that the raw emotion of the past days has threatened to cause lasting damage to the monarchy. But even the choice of Mr Blair's phrase of Diana as the "people's princess" raised the question in some people's mind of what this said about the status of the other Royals in the public's affections.

A sign of the massive grief is the prediction last night by Scotland Yard that up to six million

The clamour and the response

2 September: Royalists practical to lengthen the route without drastically extending the day. The Palace, responding to RAC calls for the route to be extended

3 September: "If the public is no longer impressed by stiff upper lips, by pushing grief, stricken boys into suits and sending them off to a church service where their mother is not even mentioned; if the future king cannot even put his arm around his young sons, then what and whom is it all for?" Suzanne Moore, *The Independent*. "A sea of flowers the band plays... but no flag flies" *The Sun*

4 September: "Your People are Suffering. Speak to Us Again" *The Mirror*. "Show Us You Care - Mourners call for the Queen to lead our grief" *The Express*

Where is our Queen? Where is our flag?" *The Star*. "No flag flying at Westminster Abbey at half mast after the Queen has left for the funeral service at Westminster Abbey. This meets the growing chorus of demands from many ordinary people who have complained that there has been no flag at all. Traditionally, only the Royal Standard is flown - and then only when the Queen is resident."

A concerted attempt to rally behind the Windsors came yesterday as politicians and church leaders urged the end of public criticism.

Conservative leader William Hague said: "Please, let us all come together now and stop converting our grief into criticism of the Royal Family. Saturday's funeral should be a dignified, united expression of national sorrow." Tony Blair has already made public his support for Prince Charles and others in the family.

In a joint statement, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said: "We believe this is a time for us all to come together - in our grief, in thanks for Diana's life and in sympathy with those most closely affected by this tragedy."

A Lambeth Palace spokeswoman said one of the reasons for the statement was that "the archbishops are urging that this is a time for unity, as they have thought that the tendency to criticise the Royal Family is not helpful for the Princes William and Harry at this sad time."

Reaction to the Royal news was mixed among mourners outside St James's Palace. Earl Spencer's widow, Lady Diana, from London, said: "I feel she's been pushed into making a statement. John Bradley, from Devon, said: "It's about time. In my opinion, it's a disgrace they've kept quiet for so long."

Andrew Lean, from Liverpool, said: "I'm glad. I just wonder why it's taken them so long. They must know how people feel."

A Palace spokesman denied any suggestion of a "knee-jerk" reaction by the Royal Family.

Diana 1961-1997

More emotion, less ceremony

Biggest crowd-control operation ever

Ritz could face charges

Letters

In defence of Charles

Suzanne Moore

The part Blair played

Why I'm not interested

Sara Maitland

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In their first public appearance since Sunday, Prince Harry, Prince William, the Prince of Wales and the Queen inspect floral tributes when they attended a special service for Diana, Princess of Wales, at Crathie church, near Balmoral, yesterday afternoon. Photograph: Derek Ironside

Funeral rebuff for the tabloid editors

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

Earl Spencer, the Princess of Wales' brother, has taken his revenge on the tabloid newspapers he blamed for his sister's death by barring their editors from Saturday's funeral.

The editors of the tabloid press were originally invited along with the editors of broadsheet newspapers by the Lord Chancellor's office. Once he learnt of the invitations, Lord Spencer called the tabloid editors personally to tell them they were no longer welcome.

Buckingham Palace refused to comment on the withdrawn

invites but passed inquiries on to Earl Spencer's home at Althorp, saying that he was in control of who attends.

In a prepared statement, a spokesman for Lord Spencer said: "Lord Spencer has personally asked the tabloid editors not to come, because he and his sisters, particularly Diana, would not have wished them to be there. They have kindly agreed to the request, although broadsheet and regional papers are welcome."

Immediately he heard of his sister's death, Earl Spencer accused every editor who had bought paparazzi pictures of his sister of having "blood on their

hands". He himself has had a long-running battle with the tabloids over their intrusion into his privacy and moved to South Africa to escape their attention.

He was especially angered when one newspaper printed photographs taken with a long lens of his then wife when she was being treated for an eating disorder in a private clinic.

Stuart Higgins, editor of the Sun, said yesterday that he had been surprised and honoured to have been invited to the funeral, but was happy to respect the Earl's wishes that he not attend as a "matter of respect" to the Princess.

"LUMET IS ONE OF THE
MOST IMPORTANT
FILMMAKERS
OF OUR TIME."

"A GRIPPING THRILLER."

Andy Garcia Richard Dreyfuss
Lena Olin Ian Holm

In a city of nine million people
is there room for excellence and

SIDNEY LUMET
NIGHT FALLS
on Manhattan

1997. 125 mins. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802

news

significant shorts

Police make arrests over fatal Brecon blast

Police investigating an explosion at a house in Brecon on Monday night which killed one man and seriously injured another, made a number of arrests yesterday.

A Dyfed-Powys police spokesman said: "Those arrested all have close associations with the Brecon area." He declined to say how many were being questioned at police stations in the force area.

Forensic experts were continuing to sift through the wreckage of the house in Dorglas, an estate about 400 yards from Brecon Barracks, the headquarters of the Army in Wales. On Wednesday police discovered a number of 8oz sticks of plastic explosive in another house about a mile from the scene of the explosion. The material, P.E.4, is manufactured by Royal Ordnance for use by the armed services. Detective Chief Superintendent Jeff Thomas, head of Dyfed-Powys CID, said the explosion which wrecked the house in Dorglas had been caused by about 1lb of explosives. Tony Heath

Dublin docklands come back to life

The transformation of Dublin's largely dormant docklands into a hi-tech living and working community is in a plan aiming to create up to 40,000 jobs and 10,000 homes in Dublin Bay.

The project is the largest single urban development project in Ireland since the country's independence. The draft master plan, which goes on public display today, amounts to a blueprint for a technology-driven new town on 1,300 acres along the north and south waterfronts and their hinterlands, until recently a wasteland.

The regeneration marks a turnaround for an area, which, like the London Docklands two decades ago, had long been in decline. Schools, adult-learning facilities and job-training programmes are planned; other elements include tax incentives, new transport links, hotels and a shopping centre. The draft plan can be viewed on the Internet: <http://www.dida.ie> from 11 September. Alan Murdoch

Music awards take a low key



Jamiroquai and The Spice Girls were spearheading a strong British presence at this year's MTV Video Music Awards in New York last night. But the star-studded occasion was set to be overshadowed by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Elton John, one of the ceremony's presenters, is flying straight back to London in time for the Princess's funeral on Saturday morning.

Jazz funk star Jamiroquai are poised to clean up at the awards, which will be watched by millions on MTV's world network. The band have nominations in 10 categories for their "Virtual Reality" video, more than any other act. They will perform during the show, as will the Spice Girls, nominated in two categories, and U2. Beck is among the American performers and model Cindy Crawford (pictured) is one of the presenters.

Girl wins cerebral-palsy court case

A High Court judge yesterday ordered an education authority to pay the £30,000-a-year school fees of a seven-year-old girl suffering from cerebral palsy after the LEA had refused to do so on the grounds it was an inefficient use of resources.

Hereford and Worcester Council had ignored the findings of a Special Educational Needs Tribunal (Sent) that Karis Lane had not received proper attention at Chatsworth School in Bromsgrove, and, therefore, needed the special care provided by Ingfield Manor in Billingshurst, West Sussex. The LEA did not pay her school fees which were met for the first term by Scope, formerly the Spastics Society. Mr Justice Collins refused an appeal by the county council to refer the case back to the Sent so that another, less expensive, school could be found for Karis. The girl's mother, Karen, was legally aided to defend the action and was represented by Cherie Booth QC.

Children laid to rest

The funeral took place yesterday of the two children who accidentally hanged themselves after a game went wrong.

Claire Rogers, 13, and Daniel Gibbs, 10, were cremated in a joint ceremony attended by hundreds of relatives and friends at the West Hertfordshire Crematorium in Garston. The children were found strangled with a scarf tied around their necks in Claire's bedroom last Tuesday. Her father Stephen discovered the bodies at the family home in Croxley Green, Hertfordshire. Claire's funeral was held at St Oswald's church in Croxley Green, and a separate service was held for Daniel at St Michael's Church, Watford. Kate Watson-Smyth

Mother calls for shipwreck inquiry

A police decision to dispose of the scalloper Pescado, the vessel at the centre of a manslaughter trial after it sank with the loss of six crew more than six years ago, was criticised yesterday.

The Devon and Cornwall force has spent £1,000 a month storing the 100-tonne craft in Devonport dockyard, Plymouth, since it was raised from the seabed in September 1993, as part of a £500,000 police inquiry into the tragedy. But Rita Capon, from Durham, whose 23-year-old daughter, Jo-Anne Thomas, was the cook aboard the vessel, said yesterday she wanted a public inquiry into the sinking, and that the Pescado should be preserved as evidence. The crew died when the Plymouth registered vessel sank in 240 feet of water after sailing from Falmouth in February 1991.

Wit to stand for Irish presidency

Ireland's defenders of hard-line pro-Vatican social values are facing their ultimate challenge. The popular wit, Joyce scholar and gay rights campaigner Senator David Norris has agreed to be nominated for the country's presidency. His intervention follows pressure on John Hume, the SDLP leader, to stand, in a telephone call this week from Mary Harney, leader of the Progressive Democrats, the junior party in the ruling Dublin coalition. Mr Norris told *The Independent* that he had been asked to run in next month's poll by three Dail and Senate members from conservative to radical left, following numerous summer requests from the general public. He will run if the required 20 Dail and Senate members nominate him. Alan Murdoch

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people



Jeremy Irons: Threatened to leave Britain if film of *Lolita* is banned

Irons says the US censors of *Lolita* are as bad as Chinese

Jeremy Irons yesterday drew a direct comparison between the censorship in the United States of his new film, *Lolita*, and the repressive Chinese attitude towards freedom of expression in the cinema.

The actor spoke out during a news conference, at the Venice film festival, about *Chinese Box*, a film by Hong Kong-born director Wayne Wang, in which he stars as an English journalist. When asked how China's film censorship affected the ability to make films, he replied: "I have a film [*Lolita*] that's being held in America - censorship is censorship."

Wang had earlier said that it was very difficult to work in China because authorities hold the negative of a film until they have approved it.

Irons stars as Humbert Humbert in the new movie version of Vladimir Nabokov's classic story of a mid-aged man's love affair with an under-age girl.

The film includes scenes of *Lolita*, played by 15-year-old Dominique Swain, lounging naked on a bed. A body double was used for some scenes.

The film has drawn criticism over the suitability of its subject matter, and its distribution was held up in the US by major Hollywood studios. It is scheduled to open officially in Rome, later this month, after showing at a film festival in Spain.

The Chinese authorities have accused Zhang of portraying a backward China, out of step with their campaign for positive socialist ethics.

Kate Watson-Smyth

Judy Collins in Bosnia to take up landmine cause

Judy Collins (right), the American singer-songwriter, arrived in Bosnia yesterday to promote the campaign to ban landmines. Her three-day trip, sponsored by UNICEF, will include visits to elementary schools in Sarajevo and a theatre festival for young people in the divided southern city of Mostar.

The Princess of Wales spent three days visiting landmine victims in Bosnia early last month on a tour organized by the US-based Landmine Survivors Network. "This was one of the Diana's last efforts," Collins said. "I think that her tragic death will underline, highlight some of the things that she was most interested in, of course, keeping landmines in the forefront."

Millions of landmines remain scattered across Bosnia, following the three-and-a-half-year war that ended in late 1995. The mines maim and kill civilians almost every day.

Judy Collins has a long history of protest - singing and marching against segregation and the Vietnam war, but was brought back into the political mainstream by President Clinton, who asked her to sing at his inauguration.

She has also suffered great personal sadness. Five years ago her only child, Clark Taylor, committed suicide at the age of 34.

She is widely known as the artist whose cover versions helped



Shipyard's first woman worker

One of Britain's most respected ship repair centres has broken with its macho traditions and taken its first woman on board. Claire Goss O'Connor, 17, is the first female apprentice to be taken on at the A&P Tyne ship repair yard on the River Tyne.

The former South Tyneside College student is one of 26 apprentices. She will spend four years training to be an electrical fitter.

Yesterday she said she was excited at the prospect of working on the complex electrical systems of some of the world's most sophisticated vessels. "The course is excellent - broad-based and comprehensive enough to give me a solid grounding in the maritime engineering business. I'm delighted to be here and determined to succeed".

Managing director Barry Johnson said: "It is somewhat embarrassing to realize that Claire is the first female ship repair apprentice on the river but everything has to start somewhere."

"I am convinced she will find her apprenticeship both challenging and rewarding and that she has what it takes to make a positive contribution to our business in the medium term".

After her starring role at the President's inaugural concert, Ms Collins said: "I felt strange but very flattering to be inside the White House as a guest, rather than outside protesting."

"We now have to invest in our future".

David Lister

briefing

SCIENCE

Nerve implant that helps paraplegics to walk again

Crippled patients are being helped to stand and walk with an implant that stimulates the roots of paralysed nerves, it was revealed yesterday. One woman who smashed her spine in a car accident about seven years ago is now able to walk a few steps with assistance - and ride a tricycle.

The new device is called a Lumbar Anterior Root Stimulator Implant (LARS) which is surgically placed in the spine. Unlike other implants it stimulates the roots of nerves rather than the point at which they enter the muscles.

Two paraplegic patients have been given the implant by a team of doctors led by Dr Nick Donaldson, from University College London.

They reported in the *Lancet* medical journal yesterday that the first patient, who underwent surgery in December 1994, has now been standing regularly for more than two years. Although her standing posture was still unsatisfactory, she had been able to take 24 consecutive steps while being guided by helpers. In addition, the combination of joint movements available meant she was able to ride a tricycle or cycle machine.

The second patient, a man, has just begun to stand six months after implantation. It is too early to say how successful his treatment has been.

The battery-powered implant is activated by the patient using a small control box.

HEALTH

Frozen foods - handle with care

Frozen beefburgers and sausages that have to be prised apart are turning kitchens into war zones, doctors warned yesterday. Increasing numbers of people are appearing at hospital casualty departments with hand injuries after using knives to separate frozen food items. Some suffer cut tendons and nerve damage from which they never fully recover.

A group of doctors has urged manufacturers to help reduce the level of injury with warning labels and instructions on how to separate frozen items safely.

Consultant plastic surgeon Stewart Fleming, from St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, Essex, and two colleagues, identified 27 patients with knife wounds treated at four hospitals between 1992 and 1995. Additional information from the Department of Trade and Industry's home accident surveillance database for 1991 disclosed 32 patients with "cutting or piercing" injuries involving frozen items.

Beefburgers were by far the biggest danger, responsible for 30 of the accidents. Other cases involved chops, sausages, crumpets and pastry.



HOMELESSNESS

One in 50 on the streets has TB

Health chiefs are ignoring the risk of tuberculosis to homeless people, new research claims. One in 50 rough sleepers has TB - 200 times the average rate - yet fewer than a third of health authorities and trusts are providing services to reduce the risk of catching the disease, according to homeless charity Crisis.

Research by the charity shows that only 21 per cent of health authorities operate screening programmes for homeless people. Only 20 per cent monitor the housing of hospital patients and only 36 per cent have a member of staff following up homeless TB patients.

The charity claims only minimal extra money is needed to put more efficient plans into practice.

Dr Ken Ciron, who carried out the research, said: "The problem is not yet at epidemic levels, and we have enough time and knowledge to make sure it doesn't become so. However, if health care purchasers and providers don't act, many people will suffer unnecessarily."

DRUGS

Extent of addiction underestimated

Policy makers are being given an inaccurate picture of the extent of illicit drug use, experts claimed yesterday. Drug monitoring did not take account of the prevalence of known problem drug-takers, and provided a "false picture of trends of visible drug use". In addition, the data that was collected was flawed because of under-reporting by drug agencies.

Researchers led by Matthew Hickman, from Imperial College, London, investigated reports of "episodes" of drug user attendance at dependency and rehabilitation clinics. Although records were kept on new clients, the prevalence of known problem drug users who may attend more than one agency was not measured.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, the researchers said: "The database does not measure the prevalence of known problem drug-takers, which means it is inadequate for planning services and provides a false picture of trends of visible drug use."

"The database needs to be changed rather than abandoned since policy makers and health services need information on drug users in contact with services."

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THE CURTAIN FALLS.
(AND IT BRINGS THE HOUSE DOWN.)

THE PROMS

SATURDAY 13TH 7.30PM, THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS, AND LIKE EVERY PROM BEFORE, IT'S LIVE ON THREE. SO FOR A REALLY MOVING EXPERIENCE, STAY JUST WHERE YOU ARE.

3
90.95P

More emotion, less ceremony

Elton to sing as
Abbey precedent
is cast aside

Michael Streeter

Palace officials and the Spencer family have thrown away Royal precedent for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The result will be the kind of celebration of her life that Diana herself may have wanted: sad, emotional but not overly ceremonial. Perhaps significantly, no members of the Royal Family will speak, though the Queen, Queen Mother and Prince Philip will be in the front row of mourners.

The Very Rev Dr Wesley Carr, Dean of Westminster, who will conduct part of the service, said it would contain quiet, reflective time to allow people to mourn her loss; secondly a chance would be given to offer thanks for her "many gifts"; finally, there will be a commitment to the causes that Diana espoused. Once again, the Palace insisted it was a "unique" event for a unique person.

The 50-minute ceremony will contain traditional elements, including hymns and the National Anthem as reminders of her Royal status. But the highlight of the non-traditional parts will be Elton John singing a specially amended version of his song "Candle in the Wind".

The words - still being finalised, though a version was available yesterday - are a dedication to Diana, starting "Goodbye, England's Rose; may you ever grow in our

hearts". They replace the words of the original which were written as a tribute to Marilyn Monroe, and read "Goodbye Norma Jean, though I never knew you at all..."

The tribute will be given by Diana's brother, Earl Spencer. Her two sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale and Lady Sarah Fellowes, will read poems, and Tony Blair will give a reading from I Corinthians 13.

But, after discussions between the two families, there will be no formal participation by any member of the Royal Family.

Dr Carr explained the reasoning behind the choice of personnel, saying: "We are remembering a particular individual in a private funeral which is very public." He emphasised that it was not a state occasion.

In the Bidding, the Dean will tell the 1,900-strong congregation, which will include many friends of the Princess from all over the world, including fashion and pop stars, that Diana "profoundly influenced" the nation.

"She kept company with kings and queens, with princes and presidents, but we especially remember her humane concerns and how she met individuals and made them feel significant. In her death she commands the sympathy of millions," he will say.

Later, the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr George Carey

will lead the prayers, including one for Prince William and Prince Harry, "who mourn the passing of their dearly beloved mother".

He will also refer to the other victims of the crash early last Sunday that claimed her life.

"We remember too her friend, Dodi Fayed and his family,"



Diana, Princess of Wales, comforting Elton John at the funeral of the fashion designer Gianni Versace in Milan in July

Elton John's Candle in the Wind for Diana

Your candle's burned out long before
your legend ever will.

Loneliness we've lost;
these empty days without your smile.
This torch we'll always carry
for our nation's golden child.
And even though we try,
the truth brings us to tears;
all our words cannot express
the joy you brought us through the years.

Goodbye England's rose,
from a country lost without your soul,
who'll miss the wings of your compassion
more than you'll ever know.

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A mixture of old and new: 'as she would have wanted'

Steve Boggan

It is a mix of the old and the new, the traditional and the avant garde, the poignant, the popular and the compassionate. In short, Diana's funeral service is exactly what she would have wanted and it drew gasps of appreciation after its unveiling yesterday from those who knew and loved her.

"They've achieved the impossible," said the Reverend Tony Lloyd, head of the Leprosy Mission, one of the six charities with which the Princess was most closely involved.

"I was hoping for something that would unite the nation in its grief, provide an opportunity for thanksgiving for her life and remind us that there is hope. On Saturday, this will achieve all three."

Mr Lloyd, a great friend of the Princess, was particularly impressed with the choice of "Make Me a Channel of your Peace", the modern re-working of the words of St Francis of Assisi by Sebastian Temple, the choice of the Prime Minister's reading from Corinthians and the new rendering of "Candle in the Wind".

Diana was always trying to make herself a channel through which peace and hope could be

achieved, so that is most appropriate," he said. "The Prime Minister's reading from Corinthians is about the virtues of love and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These were reflected in Diana's giving, her wit and charisma. In Greek, that translates to *charitas* which means compassion and love. And I think 'Candle in the Wind' is sad but appropriate."

He praised the organist who will play in Westminster Abbey, William Harris and pieces by Camille Saint-Saens, he said the choice was "breathtaking".

"It is a wonderful kaleidoscope of music that is very popular and familiar with elements of the new," he said. "The inclusion of work by Mendelssohn and William Harris was most appropriate."

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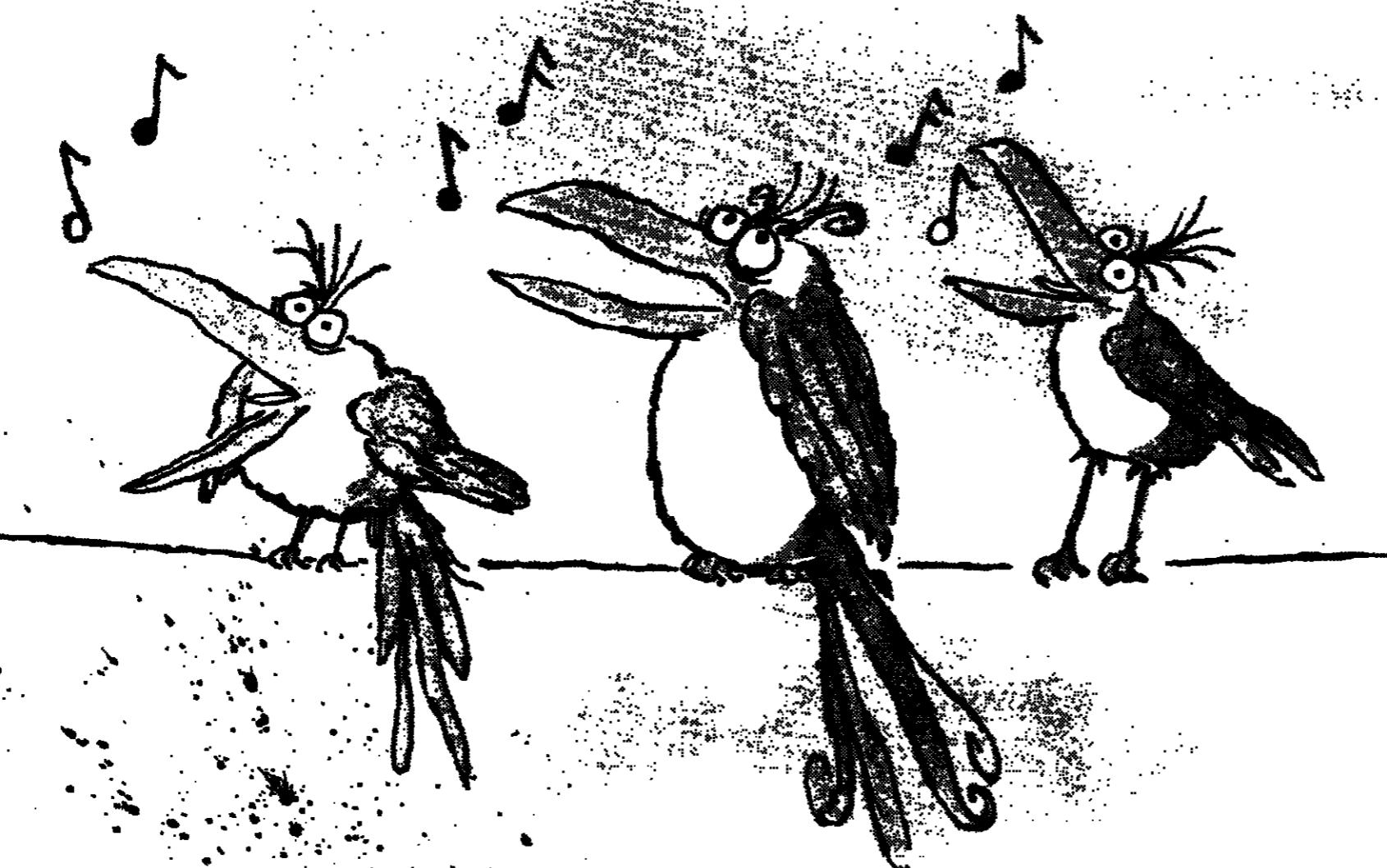
Diana 1961-1997

the crowds



Camping out: a couple take up their places outside Westminster Abbey two days early so as not to miss the funeral cortege. Photograph: Tom Pilston

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Police security operation will be biggest ever

Jason Bennett

The largest security operation ever mounted in London is expected to surround tomorrow's funeral.

More than 20,000 police officers will be used to maintain order for an estimated crowd of up to six million people. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said yesterday that the event was "unprecedented" and he warned parents to think twice before bringing young children into the heaving crowds. He also said that some people with disabilities might have difficulty with being trapped amongst millions of other mourners for many hours.

Sir Paul told a press briefing: "People should come prepared for a long wait as they may find themselves confined to a particular area for several hours. Parents should carefully consider whether to bring very young children and avoid the most congested areas."

Sir Paul

revealed details of the vast security operation taking place from today and over the weekend. He said Scotland Yard was preparing to deal with up to six million people along the funeral route from Kensington Palace to Westminster Abbey, which is expected to take one hour and 50 minutes.

Two shifts of 8,000 uni-

formed officers will guard the route. Spaced evenly in front of the barriers, the officers will face the crowd throughout the procession. An additional 2,000 volunteer Special Constables are also expected to help out, and an estimated 1,500 plain-clothed CID officers will mingle with the crowds to ensure public order is maintained.

On standby will be 80 police horses and their riders to deal with any crushes in the crowd as the coffin passes, and emergency back up teams to deal with any other disorder.

Officers from the City of London Police, British Transport Police and the Royal Parks Police will also be on duty. The cortege will be accompanied by police motorcycle outriders as security staff, including members of Scotland Yard's Royal Protection Branch, as it makes its way along the route.

The huge number of VIPs attending the funeral will also receive special protection. Security checks have already started with anti-terrorist and specialist squad members searching potential danger areas along the route, such as rooftops and sewers.

Police will be positioned on

tops of buildings throughout the day and will be monitoring surveillance cameras along the routes and surrounding areas.

Sir Paul said: "We are planning for all contingencies. There are no new threats expected. A huge significant security operation is already in place."

He later added: "Everyone involved in the arrangements is seeking to respond to three important concerns. First, public safety, in anticipation of several million people being present in Central London. Secondly, the security, feelings and dignity of those who will take part in the funeral procession.

"Finally, the need of the nation to express its collective grief with potentially millions of people to be able to be present and to be able to see the procession."

"It is hoped that everyone who turns up can be accommodated along the route. However, if officers feel that an area is becoming too congested people will be redirected elsewhere."

Sir Paul warned people to plan ahead and bring rain-proof clothing, water and food. All buses and tube stations except for Westminster, will be running on Saturday, although huge delays are expected. Parking restrictions were being introduced south of the River Thames from midnight last night and parking will be severely limited in central London on Saturday.

People who will be commuting from outside London have been advised that they should park in the suburbs and use public transport.

Sir Paul also said that plans were not yet finalised for the transfer of the Princess's body from St James's Palace to Kensington Palace on Friday night. He refused to comment on the suggestion that Prince Charles and his two sons might be planning to accompany the cortege.

Travel headache as millions head for the capital

Jojo Moyes

A train named by Diana, Princess of Wales, is to provide overnight accommodation for some of the mourners travelling to London for her funeral on Saturday.

The Red Cross, named by the Princess in May 1988, will remain on platform one at Paddington station in London tonight. It will provide shelter for 480 passengers, who might otherwise have to sleep rough.

Great Western, the train's owner, said a number of its drivers were giving up rest days to help get mourners to London.

Many train companies are laying on extra services to cope with the huge crowds expected.

London, Tilbury and Southend (LTS) Rail is doubling and tripling the length of some trains and providing free car parking at nearly all stations.

With mourners advised to arrive in good time for the funeral, some trains will reach London as early as 4.55am. London Underground is providing extra trains but is warning that Westminster station will be closed all day for safety reasons.

The coach company National Express said it was providing at least 100 additional coaches and advised people to book as early as possible. The firm said

it was experiencing "unprecedented demand" and a two-minute silence would be observed at 11am on Saturday at its coach stations.

Virgin Trains said money raised by the sale of its £6 Weekend First tickets would be donated to the Princess Diana Memorial Fund.

Many roads in central London will be closed on Saturday from early morning until the bulk of the crowds have dispersed. Motorists were being advised not to drive into London. The Highways Agency said most roadworks would be suspended but Westminster Council warned parking restrictions in central London would be strictly enforced.

British Airways said it had sold an estimated 4,000 extra tickets to people worldwide wishing to attend the funeral. Most interest has come from the United States, followed by France, Germany and Holland.

Meanwhile, car hire company Hertz, which was running a promotion offering a free Mercedes for a month and the chance to take part in a Mercedes-Benz safety driving course, has dropped the scheme "as a mark of respect". The driver of the Mercedes in the Diana death-crash had completed the course.

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news

Barbican announces plan to humanise itself

David Lister
Arts News Editor

The much-criticised Barbican Centre in London is to be given a "new human face" by its managing director John Tusa.

The arts centre has suffered years of criticism from audiences who claim it is hard to find your way about, and it has been plagued by management prob-

lems before Mr Tusa's arrival from the BBC World Service.

Yesterday Mr Tusa launched the first full season at the centre without the year-long residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company which will only be in London for the winter months.

Announcing an eclectic programme including foreign theatre, seasons by the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet, com-

temporary dance companies, comedy performances outdoors in the sculpture court, and the centre's first education programme.

But Mr Tusa's new director of public affairs, Ruth Haslip, said: "The message from our audiences following extensive customer research was very clear. We needed to communicate the human side of the

building, the lively mix of our audience and the welcoming staff, as well as the exciting programme."

And so the new Barbican Centre will have two mobile information points in the foyer to tell visitors how to find their way around. New, brightly coloured uniforms are being introduced for the 150 stewards and box office staff. And the

monthly events guides have gaily coloured covers proclaiming "helpful staff" as an added plus for the centre.

The centre has undergone a £1.9m transformation, upgrading the acoustics in the main theatre and giving it two orchestra pits and a new sprung floor for dance.

Mr Tusa said: "The Barbican Centre will always be at the

Barbican. There is nothing we can do to change that. Some people don't like coming here, but two million people do. The Barbican Theatre with its intimate auditorium ... is one of the best equipped stages in London. It has now become a unique space within the London scene - no other theatre can offer the range and flexibility to play such a wide variety of work."

Jailbirds may be key to art heist of century

David Usborne
New York

Either it is a hoax of grand proportions or the best news the art world has heard in years: 12 masterpieces, including works by Rembrandt and Degas, stolen in Boston seven years ago, may have been found.

What was arguably the art theft of the century happened on 18 March 1990, when two men dressed as police officers forced their way into the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and made off with the paintings valued at \$30m.

Among the works were two Rembrandts, *A Lady and a Gentleman in Black* and *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, the only known seascapes by the painter, as well as Vermeer's *The Concert*. Also purloined that morning

They're hoaxers or go-betweens. We don't know yet, do we?

were paintings by Manet. Years of investigation by the FBI, which made the capture of the art thieves a highest priority, yielded a zero.

Until that is, a shady antiquities dealer in Boston, facing charges of drugs and weapons possession, came forward recently, claiming that he knew the whereabouts of the missing art.

William Youngworth told the FBI that he and an art-thief friend serving time in a federal prison, Myles Connor, had information that would lead agents to recovering the long-lost works. Both men were serving prison terms at the time

of the theft and could not have been directly involved.

In return for the information, Mr Youngworth demanded immunity from all charges filed against him, the release of Connor from prison and the \$5m (£2.9m) reward still outstanding for the return of the paintings. Mr Youngworth repeated his demands in a television interview broadcast on Wednesday evening.

Understandably, the Gardner museum was excited. Formal contacts between its lawyers and representatives of Mr Youngworth are under way.

Yesterday Connor was temporarily transferred from his cell in Pennsylvania to Boston to enter serious negotiations with the FBI.

Neither man has a reputation that invites trust from the authorities. Mr Youngworth, 38, has a history of forgery and making false claims. Connor, 54, allegedly Mr Youngworth's mentor, was a night-club rock singer in the Sixties and Seventies, authorities said, before beginning a career of crime.

The men do, however, have some special credibility in this instance.

Connor, in particular, has a history of stealing art works and then securing leniency from prosecutors by turning up other treasures already missing.

In 1975, for instance, he pleaded guilty to stealing Andrew Wyeth paintings from a Maine estate but escaped jail by directing prosecutors to a \$5m Rembrandt stolen previously from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Serious attention started being paid to Mr Youngworth last week after it was disclosed that he had secretly arranged a visit by a reporter from the *Boston Herald* newspaper to see one of the paintings.



Master stroke: Rembrandt's *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, which a reporter may have seen

Photograph: Gardner Museum

The reporter, Tom Mashberg, was apparently taken to a warehouse somewhere in New England and, by dim torch-light, shown Rembrandt's *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*.

Under the front-page headline "WE'VE SEEN IT!", the *Herald* printed the astonishing tale last week.

Mr Mashberg is not an expert, nor was he allowed to touch the painting he was being shown. But after a long meeting between him and the

directors of the Gardner museum, the latter said it was taking Mr Youngworth's claim seriously.

What Mr Mashberg had seen, the museum said, was either "an extremely good copy or it was the Gardner painting".

It is not clear whether Mr Youngworth or Connor are acquainted with the Gardner thieves or if they even know their identity.

Mr Youngworth, who faces a hearing on his drugs and

weapons charges in Boston today, is expected to meet federal agents to discuss the paintings immediately afterwards.

In spite of the murkiness of the affair, some experts are daring to hope that the missing treasures may be hanging in the Gardner once more within weeks.

"This is the most interesting lead yet," suggested Constance Lowenthal, of the International Foundation for Art Research in New York, which specialises

heroes & villains of music & movies

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DAILY POEM

Casida of Weeping
By Frederico Garcia Lorca
(translated by Edwin Morgan)

*My balcony I've drawn, I've shut it –
who could bear to hear this weeping?
And yet the grey walls cannot hide it –
there's no sound but the sound of weeping.*

*Singing angels are few; are few –
barking dogs are few, are few –
hundreds of violins in the shadow of a hand –
and yet the weeping is a vast dog,
and the weeping is angel and vast the violin.
the wind is choked with the crying, leaving
no sound but the sound of weeping.*

This version of one of Lorca's "casidas" – based on the ancient verse forms of Moorish Andalusia – comes from the *Collected Translations* of the Scottish poet Edwin Morgan, published by Carcanet (£14.95).

Cash for Gulf illness tests

Ian Barrell

Gulf War-veterans have been awarded a £400,000 package by the Legal Aid Board to subject themselves to direct medical testing as it emerged that the Government's own tests for illness are only being carried out on rats and monkeys.

Dawbars of King's Lynn, which represents 450 Gulf clients, said the board's decision to fund the first study involving direct medical testing was expected to provide them with the evidence to serve dozens of writs for compensation early in the new year.

The Ministry of Defence has also finally admitted that blood samples were taken from troops in the field of battle and flown back to the military research laboratories at Porton Down for analysis.

After initial denial that the blood sampling programme, revealed by *The Independent* in February, had taken place at all, the ministry has said the samples have been frozen in a freezer at Porton Down.

Now the veterans' lawyers will be seeking to carry out a series of the samples, taken over a three-week period shortly after deployment to the Gulf, to provide supporting evidence to that which is gathered in the new medical study.

Later this month, victims of the syndrome will give samples of blood and have biopsies taken. These will be analysed by a team of scientists from around the world at laboratories in London, Glasgow, Nottingham and North Carolina.

Among the leading scientists who will be working on the study is Goran Jamal, the Glasgow

based neurophysiologist, who is renowned for his work on organophosphate poisoning. An initial pool of 100 veterans, will be whittled down to a group of 40 who are thought to best represent the symptoms suffered by the estimated 1,500 sick troops.

Richard Barr, who is co-ordinating the legal action, said: "We have been waiting for this for ages. We hope the tests will enable us to establish the causative link and I very much doubt that the MoD will be arguing after that."

Promises made after the election by John Reid, the armed forces minister, to seek out the cause of the Gulf War sickness have led to a scheme of testing which was dismissed as of "no help at all to the veterans".

In the government experiments, scientists have been told to administer the same vaccines given to the Gulf troops to a batch of laboratory rats, whose health will be monitored until 2001. Interim findings are due at the end of next year. A similar set of experiments will be carried out on monkeys.

But, Mr Barr said: "The immune responses of monkeys and rats are different from those of humans."

"Monkeys and rats are not under heat stress or fatigue. They have not been to battle or made to wear [chemical and biological warfare] suits. How do you tell when a rat is depressed?"

The veterans are angry that government inquiries into the cause of Gulf illnesses have until now concentrated on epidemiological surveys based on questionnaires and statistical analysis.

Most victims believe the cause to be the vaccines and tablets they were given to protect them from chemical and biological warfare, possibly inter-reacting with the organophosphate sprays and other pesticides which were widely used.

The bereaved families of dead Gulf veterans are furious that their sons have been asked to fill out MoD questionnaires as part of the official study into why they became sick.

One former soldier, who died last year, was sent a second form with a covering letter demanding to know why he had not filled in the first one. It is believed that the families of up to 50 other dead veterans may have received similar letters.

John Callaghan senior, whose son John died last year, said: "You can imagine what it did for us, asking him to fill a load of boxes in when he was not even there. This is being done without feeling and without research."

His son, who served with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, took his life last year at the age of 27. He was displaying the typical symptoms being felt by the 1,500 sick British gulf veterans.

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Jerusalem bombs fail to stop Albright

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, is to go ahead with her planned Middle East tour next week, despite yesterday's suicide bombs in Jerusalem.

Stressing that the United States would not be diverted from its peace efforts in the region, President Bill Clinton said: "It is clear the perpetrators of this attack intended to kill both innocent people and the peace process itself. They must not be allowed to succeed."

He again called on Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority to "do all it can to create an environment that leaves no doubt that terror will not be tolerated."

Mr Clinton said the bombs, which killed eight people and injured more than 150, made it all the more urgent to revive the peace process and he said this was the message that Mrs Albright would emphasize during her visit. She is due to leave Washington

on Tuesday for her first visit to the region as Secretary of State and her first official visit to Israel.

The decision not to cancel or postpone the visit represents a shift in Washington's tactics. Until recently, US officials had insisted that the Secretary of State would only visit the region when there was likely to be significant progress in the peace process. However, her delay in going to Israel had aroused criticism from Jewish groups, who complained that the administration was starting to distance itself from the region.

Last week, however, in the middle of President Clinton's holiday, the Secretary of State's visit was suddenly announced, even though Mr Ross had returned without apparently identifying any signs of progress in relations between Israel and the Palestinian authorities.

Mr Ross's own visit had been postponed for a month after a suicide bombing in Jerusalem which was similar to the one that occurred yesterday.



A wounded Israeli woman holding her head as she is carried down the Ben Yehuda thoroughfare in central Jerusalem. She was one of the 150 injured in the suicide blast yesterday, which killed eight people, including the three Hamas bombers

Photograph: Reuters

Officially, it was said the visit had been delayed to allow for an appropriate period of mourning in Israel, but it was also considered unlikely that he would be able to bring the two sides any closer together in the wake of the attack.

Although US officials yesterday declined to draw parallels between

the two Jerusalem attacks or speculate on any Arab motive connected with any planned US diplomatic moves, Mr Clinton's unambiguous statement that Mrs Albright would still be setting off for the Middle East sends the clear signal that Washington will not allow its efforts to be frustrated.

This also appears to be Israel's wish. The Israeli ambassador to the

United States gave a television interview shortly after the bomb attacks were reported, saying he hoped the visit would proceed and placing the blame squarely on Mr Arafat. He said the Palestinian leader had not used "his very effective security services" to clamp down on the Hamas grouping.

With a few signs of life shortly be-

fore the last terrorist attack in Jerusalem, the peace process has been virtually moribund since the beginning of the year.

An agreement was reached shortly before Mr Ross's visit that would bring in American observers to monitor Israeli and Palestinian security arrangements. The US also called for accelerated progress towards fulfill-

ing the later stages of the Oslo accords, that would involve discussion of the status of Jerusalem. This followed a proposal along similar lines made by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. It is still not clear how far this indicated progress being made behind the scenes and how far it was window-dressing intended to disguise a stalemate.

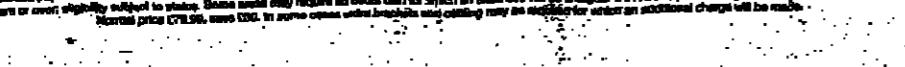
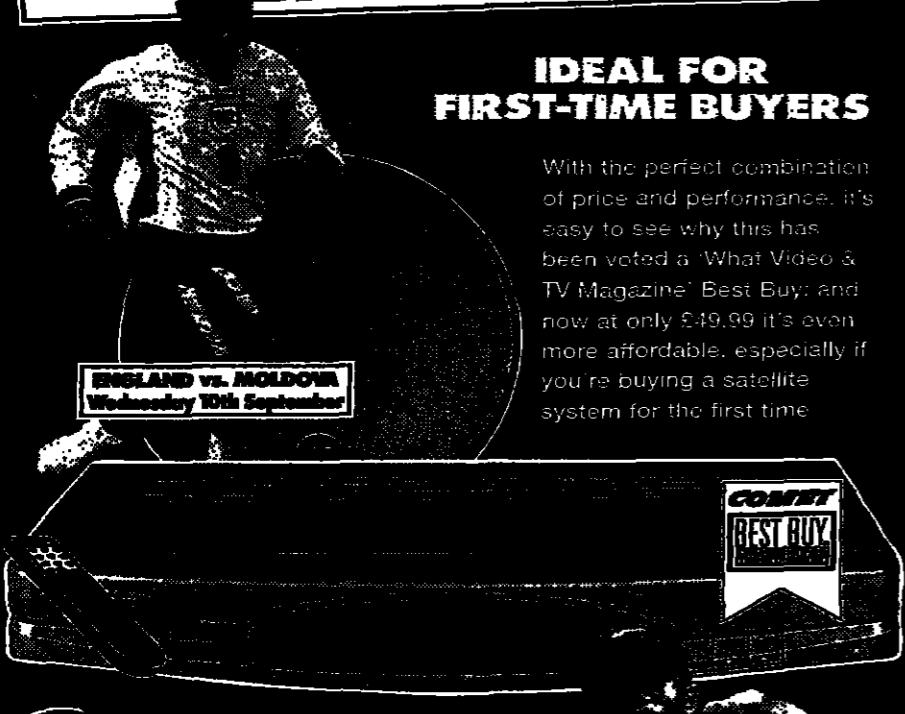
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How Hamas came to deal in death

Patrick Cockburn
Jerusalem

Within minutes of the explosions yesterday in Ben Yehuda in Jerusalem, the Islamic militant organisation Hamas was claiming that its suicide bombers had carried out the attack.

It was the latest in a series of suicide bombings carried out by Hamas, which began in April 1994 when a West Bank Palestinian rammed a car filled with explosives into a crowded bus station in Afula in northern Israel killing eight people.

Hamas, an acronym for Movement of Islamic Resistance, was a latecomer to a pol-

icy of armed struggle against Israel, which it combines with the more covert aim of discrediting Yasir Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority.

The movement was set up in 1988 in Gaza by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and six other leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in the first months of the Palestinian intifada.

It developed a strong, well-financed infrastructure with its own schools, kindergartens, charities, clinics and social services. It aimed to end the Israeli occupation and establish an Islamic state. It wanted to replace the PLO. Mr Arafat's support of Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War led

Arab Gulf states to finance Hamas. It opposed the PLO's decision to go to the Madrid peace conference in 1991. The movement also set up its own military wing called the Izzedine al-Qassam brigades.

This wing started making guerrilla attacks from 1992. In response Israel expelled 415 fundamentalists, mostly Hamas to South Lebanon. But Hamas' organisation was not damaged.

The Oslo accords of 1993 might have marginalised Hamas, but they were slowly implemented. Hamas portrayed the first suicide bomb at Afula as retaliation for the massacre by an Israeli settler of 29 Palesti-

nians in Hebron. Hamas has generally been astute in judging the Palestinian political mood. Its long-term aim is to sabotage the peace agreements, but it is tactically agile in its interests.

The suicide bombs in early 1996 destroyed the last Israeli government. Hamas seemed split between the leadership in Gaza and the leaders abroad, notably in Jordan. The former were distraught at seeing their social organisations closed down; the latter called for more attacks. Hamas is decentralised - Sheikh Yassin has been in an Israeli prison since 1989 - and it is not clear how far the leadership controls different cells.

Ever since Israel started to build a new settlement at Har Homa in Jerusalem, Hamas and Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority have started to come together. Mr Arafat publicly embraced its leader, Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, in Gaza, to the rage of Israelis.

An opinion poll in July showed that Hamas has 11 per cent support in Gaza and the West Bank, but the circle of sympathisers is probably larger. It is doubtful if Mr Arafat has the political strength to arrest and hold in prison a thousand or more Hamas militants, which would be the only way to stop their bombing campaign.

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China finds Hong Kong hard to swallow

Mainlanders think new compatriots are 'stuck up'

Stephen Vines
Guangzhou

According to the ubiquitous posters put up by the Hong Kong government, the former British colony has now returned to the embrace of the motherland. But that does not answer the question of who is running what, particularly in southern China, just across the border.

Hong Kong's influence seems to be all-pervasive here. Most families keep their televisions tuned to Hong Kong channels, restaurants evoke a Hong Kong connection to suggest a better quality of food and service, and Hong Kong fashions, rock stars and all forms of popular culture, are everywhere.

The former British colony accounts for three-quarters of foreign investment in the province. Some 50,000 Hong Kong companies employ around five million workers in the region, far more than the three million workers they employ back home.

Travelling to the provincial capital of Guangzhou from the border opens up a panorama of Hong Kong influence. The highway connecting the two places was built by the ebullient Gordon Wu, a Hong Kong businessman: the factories on ei-

ther side of the road are predominantly Hong Kong run.

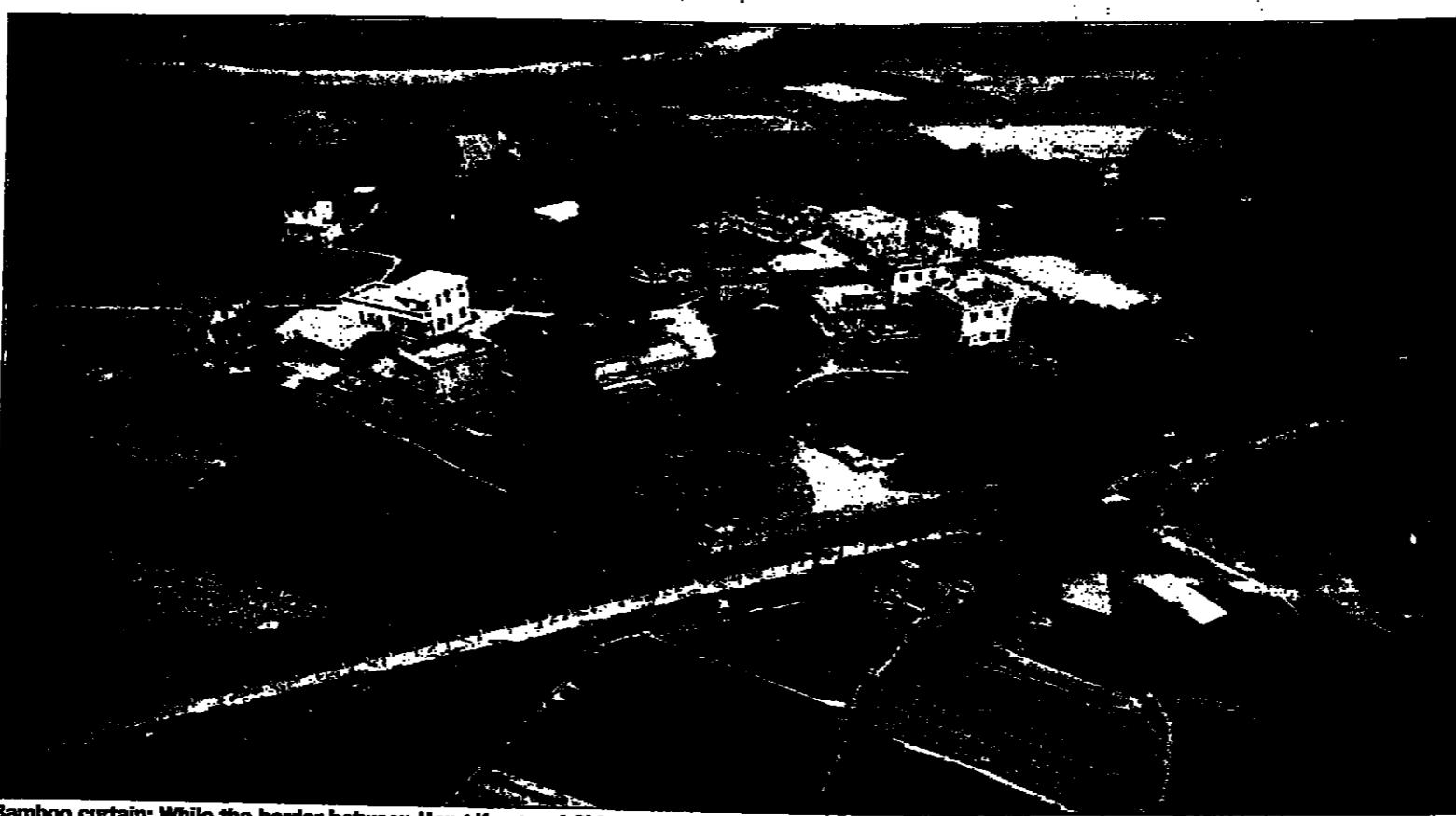
This proximity and influence is not necessarily translated into affection. The people of Guangdong Province (better known as Canton) often appear to have the same attitude towards their Hong Kong neighbours as wartime Britons had of American soldiers: over-sized, over-paid and all too often over here.

They recognise the Hongkongers are needed, but that does not necessarily make them welcome, with their flashy Rolex watches, their "second wives" across the border and their know-it-all manner.

At the Rock'n'Roll Club, in Guangzhou, the epitome of a Hong Kong-style fashionable disco, a young man who calls himself "Jimmy" is dismissive of the Hong Kong people. He uses a Chinese expression to describe them which roughly translates as being "stuck up".

"They think we're rustic people," he complains. But he asks, "what do they do know, except money?"

Yet in many ways he wants to be like his compatriots. He likes Hong Kong fashions, has purchased a flat and aspires to more or less everything a typical Hongkonger aspires to. It's



Bamboo curtain: While the border between Hong Kong and China remains impenetrable to most capitalism is marching north

Photograph: Magnum

just Hong Kong people he can't stand. He accuses them of lacking knowledge of things Chinese and being too westernised.

These views tend to lurk beneath the surface. In a host of other ways Guangdong and Hong Kong are coming closer together. The linguistic link is crucial. Officially, the whole of China is supposed to speak Put-

tonghua, "the common people's language". In reality, regional dialects or languages are showing a tenacity for survival which defies the intentions of central planners.

In Guangdong the use of Cantonese has been greatly reinforced by cultural influences coming from Hong Kong. The popular radio stations, trying to

compete with stations from Hong Kong, have switched to Cantonese. Local officials who are supposed to speak only in Putonghua while on duty quickly switch to Cantonese in an attempt to gain public support.

As standards of living improve in Guangdong, the similarity in lifestyle grows by the day. Sometimes it is difficult to

remember that the province is part of a Communist state. But the prosperity which is evident in Guangzhou soon peters out in the northern parts of the province.

Last month there were reports of rioting in Beixiang village, some 150 miles north of the city. Farmers besieged local officials, whom they accused of short-changing them in payments for grain. This was both a reminder of continuing state control over agriculture and the readiness of local people to protest.

While the rest of the country was swept by the 1989 democracy protests, Guangdong more or less kept its head down. The province may be guilty of the "spiritual pollution" which the Communist Party is busy fighting, but it shows few signs of being engaged in "counter-revolutionary activity", a rather more serious matter.

Hong Kong, however, is also the source of counter-revolutionary information and, if the more paranoid Chinese leaders are to be believed, counter-revolutionary activity. Access to the Hong Kong media ensures that Guangdong people are far bet-

ter informed about world and Chinese affairs than the rest of China.

For the time being, this information does not appear to have any damaging impact on the Communist Party's control of the province. But there may be a price to pay. It is hard to reconcile the high level of propaganda about Hong Kong's return to the motherland, and the preservation of its capitalist system, with an insistence that the freedoms and rights accorded to the people of the for-

mer colony should not be extended to the rest of China.

For the time being, double-digit economic growth and enormous improvements in the standard of living are helping to keep subversive thoughts at bay.

However, as the Chinese Communist Party knows all too well, Guangdong has been a hotbed of revolution before. As it grows apart from the rest of the country, with Hong Kong as assistance, it may return to its former role.

The iron curtain that is keeping a united nation worlds apart

Stephen Vines

Since 1 July, China's red, five-star flag has flown on both sides of the border between Hong Kong and the mainland state. But the flags may tell one story; the barbed wire fences tell quite another.

Hong Kong's incorporation into the People's Republic of China emphatically does not mean free movement between the former colony and its new sovereign state.

On the contrary, movement remains tightly controlled, with some 500 Hong Kong policemen and a great deal of sophisticated equipment deployed to keep the border secure against an influx of illegal immigrants from the Chinese mainland.

"This is one country, two systems in practice," says senior inspector Charles Parker, one of the officers responsible for border security, referring to the formula under which the former British colony has been reunited with China.

In theory, it provides for the preservation of Hong Kong's capitalist system, while China retains its allegedly socialist system.

But at the border, the slogan is more concrete: it means the preservation of a 10ft-high, 25-mile long fence topped with two rows of barbed wire. Sensors on the fence alert a central control room if anyone touches it. At night, the entire area basks in a harsh floodlit glare.

Exchanges between the police forces are cordial, yet, despite coming under a single sovereign state, the forces do not conduct joint operations, their officers are not allowed to directly contact their counterparts on the other side of the border and they never stray into each other's territory in pursuit of law breakers.

Equipped with the latest human detection technology and full backing from the Hong Kong and Chinese governments, the police are holding the line against the territory's ul-

timate nightmare: an invasion of poor and desperate Chinese mainlanders.

For its part the Chinese government is also keen to ensure that its people are not "corrupted" or "spiritually polluted" by Hong Kong.

The authorities therefore have a strong interest in keeping China's newest piece of real estate apart from the old province.

On the Hong Kong side of the border, the last remnants of the territory's farming communities work the land. On the Chinese side, vast steel and glass skyscrapers crowd the new city of Shenzhen. It looks as though the Chinese side is the land of opportunity, but the thousands of desperate illegal immigrants clearly take another view.

Despite the high risks of de-

Land of revolution

Carlton was traditionally insulated from much revolutionary activity in China.

Neither the Taiping rebellion of 1850, which devastated much of southern China, nor the Boxer uprisings at the turn of the century brought much more than ripples.

But for a short period from 1905, Carlton was the centre of revolutionary activity in China. There were six attempted coups, all planned from Hong Kong; all of which failed.

The last revolutionary effort was in 1911: it was another failure, this time involving terrible bloodshed, and it effectively damped Cantonese revolutionary efforts.

Yet they are far from welcome. They face heavy-duty border controls which were intensified during the period of the handover of power.

The land border crossing is mainly for the young and fit. Older and less agile would-be immigrants sometimes try to get in by attaching themselves to the undercarriages of the big trucks which rumble across the border at the rate of some 22,000 per day. Some are seriously injured as they fall from the vehicles.

Illegal immigrants are safer and more likely to succeed if they are smuggled in by sea and the so-called snake heads, who make a living by smuggling Chinese into Hong Kong, tend to prefer this method.

Of the 23,180 illegals who were apprehended for being in Hong Kong last year, less than a quarter were caught at the land border. The rest either escaped detection when they came in or must have arrived by sea. An unknown number escape the dragnet all together.

Yet, while mainland Chinese can only dream of coming to Hong Kong, as many as 200,000 people walk across the border at Lo Wu during weekends, while on weekdays as many as 140,000 make the crossing.

This legal traffic is largely one way, involving Hong Kong residents going to work in China, visiting their so-called "second" families or just crossing to take advantage of the cheaper prices for more or less everything in China.

No wonder that the free movement of Hong Kong residents sparks resentment among mainlanders. Chinese citizens are not even allowed into the border town of Shenzhen without a permit.

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Muscovites paint the town red to mark 850 years of glory

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Moscow will today launch into a three-day extravaganza to prove that it is no longer the citadel of world Communism but a vibrant commercial capital, attractive to tourists and international investors alike. The events, as lavish as the most grandiose of Soviet-era festivities, officially mark the city's 850th anniversary, but they have as much to do with the ambitions of its mayor, Yury Luzhkov.

Ignoring the trifling fact that no one knows the precise date of Moscow's founding (1147 is the first time it is mentioned in manuscripts), Mr Luzhkov has tirelessly hectored the capital into mounting the biggest fete in its history. Last night, workmen were still frantically painting and scrubbing crumbling, grime-covered buildings, Patriotic posters, Russian flags, and "I Love You Moscow" banners festoon every major street. As he bestrides the international stage, the mayor - who has invited no fewer than 55 foreign delegations to his show - wants no unsightly scenes to mar

his performance. Like Mr Luzhkov himself - who, at 60, still expects his staff to play football with him before work - the programme is loud, flamboyant, and has a strong nationalist and Russian Orthodox streak.

A fire-breathing mechanical dragon, controlled from a cockpit in its head, will perform a Russian folk tale in Red Square. There will be fireworks, parades, ballet, choirs, speeches and a performance by Luciano Pavarotti. In the giant Olympic stadium, a laser light show will produce a giant vision of the Virgin Mary, above a flock of live swans.

All this is vintage Luzhkov. In the last five years, the former party apparatchik has turned himself into a big city boss. Although he routinely denies it, few doubt he is laying the turf for a run at the presidency when Mr Yeltsin stands down.

History has not always been kind to Moscow over the centuries. It has been sacked by Mongols, demoted by Peter the Great, occupied by Christ the Saviour, which was blown up by Stalin.

The mayor's arm-twisting skills ensured that businesses - even weapons makers -

ploughed millions into the project, which was built at a break-neck speed. So, too, was one of his proud boasts: the new three-storey underground shopping mall beside the Kremlin walls, soon to be filled by chic Western franchises.

Not everyone approves. Little love is lost between Moscow and the provinces. Although only 7 per cent of the 147 million Russians live in the capital, it holds 80 per cent of its wealth and almost two-thirds of its foreign investment.

Provincial Russians blame the centre for a multitude of sins, from failing to pay wages to ignoring the collapse of their industries.

Although a third of the

same unrelenting wall of semi-derelict, filthy high-rise apartment blocks that ringed the city in Soviet times. But hundreds of boutiques, offices blocks, casinos and cafés have arrived in the centre, driving office rents above those of New York. This is good news for Mr Luzhkov, the city still has a stake in almost all of Moscow's real estate.

These days, the skyline is dominated by the gold-plated dome of Mr Luzhkov's pet project, the rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, which was blown up by Stalin.

The mayor's arm-twisting skills ensured that businesses - even weapons makers -

money spent on the 850th jubilee is from private sponsors, the rest is not.

Television pictures of

Moscow going on a self-congratulatory binge with public money will not bring much delight. Some Muscovites have also complained, pointing out that the city - where the average pay

packet is less than \$260 (£153) a month - has terrible medical facilities, pot-holed roads, terrible crime and an army of homeless.

"This is all too Soviet for me," said Irina Milkleva, a media researcher. "Why don't they spend the money on rebuilding the sewage system?"

Colourful past: Red Square, Moscow, March 1917. The Russian capital has an 850-year history that includes invasion, destruction and revolution

AKG

Photo: AP

Three days to rescue the reformers' hopes

Normal business will resume, officially, on Monday. But politicians, if they are wise, will be chary. This week's highly-strung public mood may linger. People may find it hard to stomach too swift a return to the partisan, divisive grind. Unifying, healing speech may be at a premium, with the tabloids desperately eager to leap upon breakers of their partisan definitions of peace. Might that mean the unionist tide will run more strongly north of the English border and the Welsh show themselves no more enthusiastic about national political self-expression than they were when last consulted 20 years ago?

Even though it has redoubtable Liberal and nationalist allies in both Scotland and Wales, it is of course Labour which is the principal devolutionist party. The Government thus has most to lose by the failure of the campaigns which are this week in suspension – and failure must be taken to include a low turnout. Its leading lights will, doubtless, be on their guard. Perhaps the vehemence of Donald Dewar's opposition to Scotland's football game-taking place on Saturday had to do with his sense of having to tread a very fine line. Labour seems at pains to say that loyalty (at least of the Diana variant) does not forbid devolution.

But the death of the Princess has cost Mr Dewar and his colleagues quite a bit, and more than just time on the

campaign trail. The momentum that was meant to build up from mid-August (when the Scottish schools went back) was lost. The devolutionists have barely three days' campaigning before Scotland votes next Thursday and that against a background of growing anti-devolution sentiment, at least as registered in the polls. The odds are mounting in favour of some significant embarrassment for Labour, either in terms of a low turnout, or even a vote against the second, tax-raising proposition. It seems likely that Labour will win its vote a week later in Wales, but possibly on turnout which casts doubt on the desire of the Welsh for significant constitutional change.

It is worth rehearsing, briefly, why these votes matter. It is evident the people living in Scotland and Wales (a plural bunch, let's not forget – not all Scottish residents are Scots and some of the inhabitants of Cardiff speak Chinese) are being offered an opportunity not just to reflect upon governance but to alter it to suit them. The occasion matters to the population of England, too.

Scottish devolution bulked large in the Labour manifesto. A yes-no vote in Scotland punctuates Blairst rhetoric and demonstrates the misjudgment of Labour Party opinion. A check to constitutional reform here could severely reduce the time and energy the Government would be prepared to put into other commitments – on proportional

representation, on House of Lords and parliamentary reform. The case, among other things, for more local self-government in England (including London) could be vitiated: if Scottish and Welsh voters proved apathetic or antagonistic, could Labour trust Londoners to turn out in their droves to reform the governance of the capital? Yet if Scottish devolution matters so much to the fate of this government, the Labour leadership turns out to have been lackadaisical. The campaign for a yes-no vote started late and unproprioitously. Paisley – the report by Labour's chief whip, Nick Brown, was peculiarly

ill-timed – gave the enemies of devolution an apt slogan, and an effective question: why should the machine which brought you the murky local and constituency dealings of west central Scotland behave differently when its spoils also included seats in an Edinburgh assembly? Labour's paladins, Messrs Mandelson and Prescott, arrived late and ineffectually. Mr Blair, so blessed by his personal opinion poll rating, has so far chosen not to sprinkle his charisma across the borders of England. Cynics say Labour leaders would privately be quite content with a yes-no vote. It would, *inter alia*, stop awkward

questions being raised about the Barnett formula, under which Scotland ends up with extra public spending per head. It would please the constitutional conservatives who throng the Cabinet. But it would also undermine one of the Government's sturdiest, Donald Dewar. He has hardly had a faultless innings. Labour's campaign alliance with the Scottish National Party is dangerous – as risky as any connection with ultras who will never settle to the real business of politics, which is negotiation and untidy compromise.

Mr Dewar seems to have been taken by surprise by the rejectionist sentiments of the Scottish Confederation of British Industry and the Bank of Scotland governor, Sir Bruce Partillo. You do not have to subscribe to the folk myth of Scottish financial prudence to see that a considered rejection of revenue-raising powers by a pillar of the financial establishment was bound to affect the mood. That business interests speak with slightly forked tongue is beside the point (only the other day English business was welcoming the devolution of powers to the English regions).

Recent polls suggest support for the Conservatives has grown. Such evidence need not be a cause for Labour concern. Tory strength is likely to have been consistently under-reported during the Thatcher-Major years and the non-representation of Conservatives in Scotland in the Westminster Parliament

is now one of the most glaring anomalies of first-past-the-post voting. Renewed Tory support could indeed be a sign of politics in Scotland returning "to normal" – which could mean the status quo of 1979. The vote next Thursday could see the satisfaction of Scots with the new government in London permitting only a limited change to governance in Edinburgh. Labour has a lot of work to do next week to avoid that embarrassment.

Parents learn the value of tuition

According to a survey commissioned by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, there has been a marked shift in parents' recognition that they should help to pay for their children's higher education. This must be good news for David Blunkett, the Education Secretary. Those Labour MPs who objected to the decision to charge for tuition – some quite vocally before the parliamentary break – should think again. For the poll also shows, despite the prospect of paying, that the numbers of young people likely to study will remain buoyant. They and their parents accept that higher education's benefits are personal as well as public and they are obliged as a result to contribute to costs.



ONE CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E1 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 3405 / 0171-345 2435

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lachrymose frenzy over Diana's death

Sir: I cannot believe the mass hysteria sweeping the nation. Yes, it is a tragedy, but it should not be affecting our daily lives to this extent. I have no objection to people grieving, if that is how they feel. However, I suspect that there is a kind of morbid peer-pressure: "Have you signed the book of condolence yet?"

The media is in a lachrymose frenzy, perhaps induced by a sense of culpability. Every radio station, newspaper and television station is torturing us with their exaggerated sorrow. There must be some other news worth reporting.

I hope that after the funeral we will all be permitted to get on with our own lives, and Diana will be allowed to rest in peace.

CONRAD JACOBSON
Manchester

Sir: *The Independent* appears to have forgotten its original policy of relegating royal affairs to the inside pages. Was it so entirely foolish? The media generally were bound to be distraught at the loss of a goose that had laid so many golden eggs but surely we could have asked for a degree more critical detachment from you?

After all, what is this fuss about? "Palace and people"? It's not a credible social description of anything found outside Grimm's fairy tales. "Landmines and AIDS"? Let's quit the pretence. This was a soap opera, which was prematurely interrupted before the ratings began to fall.

True, the House of Windsor is distinctly upmarket from its prescribed Hollywood clones, and, yes, it was a "real" soap, insofar as the world of hereditary monarchy, paparazzi and international glitterati are real to the other 99.9 per cent of the population. But still it was a soap, a media product adapted for mass consumption. That and only that makes the loss of this one life matter more than any other.

PETER GHOSH
St Anne's College, Oxford

Sir: It is outrageous that the Scottish Football Association should be scapegoated for failing to rearrange a football match over which they have very little control. It is, however, in keeping with the intolerance that lies behind the myth of a nation "united in grief".

There are those like the SFA, caught in circumstances beyond their control, and then there are the millions of people who are not grieved, not because they are heartless but simply because they did not know Diana, had not met Diana and were not inspired by Diana. Yet scarcely one word of their doubts and reservations is allowed to be heard.

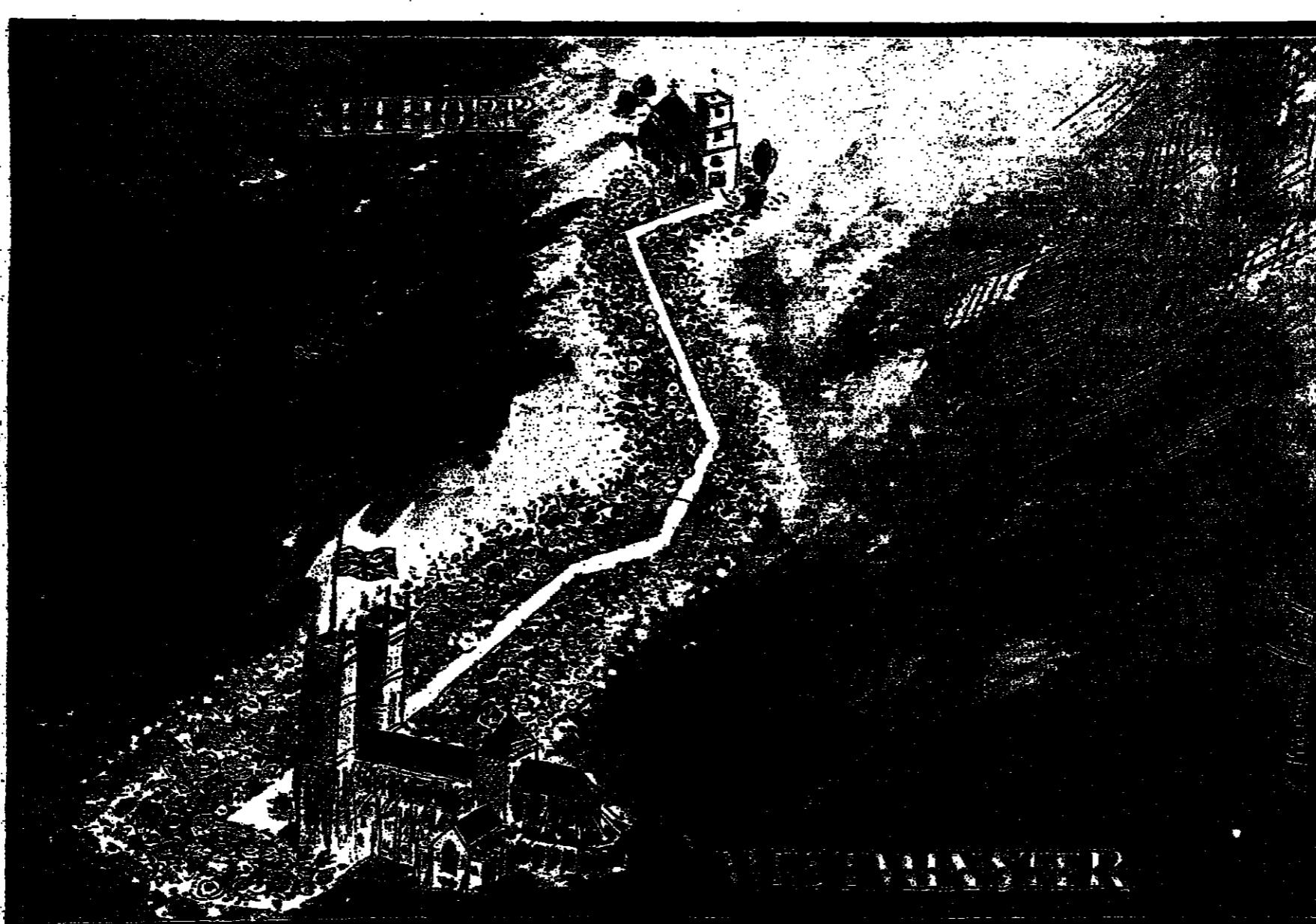
The atmosphere of Britain this week has been utterly stifling. Let those who wish to grieve do so. But must everybody else be intimidated into line?

ED HORTON
Oxford

German solidarity

Sir: It seems the car hit a pillar full-on at 121mph. It is a supreme tribute to the engineering prowess of Mercedes-Benz Cars that the bodyguard sitting in the front passenger seat has survived.

PAUL WALTER
Newbury, Berkshire



Respect for Royal Family's grief

Sir: It would appear that the tabloid press have won the day, yet again. At the beginning of the week the television media talked endlessly of how the paparazzi's paymasters were responsible for the Princess's death. Now the UK tabloids have skilfully moved the controversy towards Balmoral in asking why were not the Royal Family publicly mourning Diana's loss.

After Diana is buried on Saturday the tabloids will be running their gams on the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family, asking why was not more done for Diana during her lifetime. Before long, the two princes, William and Harry, will truly be cooped up in their "tower", being forced to live up to an image which I suspect was far more mythical than the majesty of monarchy itself.

JOHN P. MARTI-ROSSI
London E9

Sir: One of the saddest aspects of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is the bitter and unjustified hostility towards HM the Queen, HRH the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family which has surfaced through the press and the television over the last few days. This uninformed criticism of a family in mourning, struggling like any other which has had to face sudden and unexpected tragedy, does no justice whatever to the memory of the Princess.

It is a sad reflection of our times that the Queen, the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family, who for so long have worked tirelessly for the well-being of all in this country and many abroad, should be subject to the

discrediting outbursts which some newspapers and television news programmes are delighting in putting before us.

Such monumental disrespect and lack of manners at this most difficult of times does not in any way reflect the "exquisite manners" of the Princess, to which a friend of hers referred recently in a tribute to her.

The Rev PETER LYNESS
London W6

Sir: Having lived through the violent and much reported death of a close family member, I had the utmost sympathy with the Royal Family's decision to hide it away from the public.

At the time all families need to be close together and may well not have the strength to face people outside their immediate confines. This was certainly my experience. For the royal the experience can only be worse, as they will be subject to intense public gaze on Saturday and beyond, a fate no others have to endure.

I implore your readers to think first of the needs of Diana's immediate family and less of their own needs. If we really care for Diana we should lend the father of her children, and their other close relatives, our support as they try to support the two boys through this impossible time.

RICHARD CADMAN
London SW15

Sir: Suzanne Moore ("The Windsors still don't understand us", 3 September) doesn't know that the future king cannot even put his arms

around his young sons". I am sure that in private he will be doing all that he can to comfort his children, but what Suzanne Moore demands is a public display of emotion, denying Charles the option of grieving in his own way.

What kind of callousness drives her to forget that, whatever his position, Prince Charles is still a man who can only feel things the way he does? Where is her compassion? Or does she reserve it for those who satisfy her own notions of how emotion is best expressed?

TONY MULHOLLAND
London W7

Sir: So, the Royal Family is exposed to sniping and hostile speculation if it does not copy the habits and style of one of its former members. A 71-year-old monarch and her 50-year-old heir are guilty for not behaving like a 36-year-old given to expensive frocks and conspicuously extravagant holidays.

I am 59, alone in beginning to weary of the tabloid assumption, shared by some of your commentators, that the head of state is only deserving of respect if he or she is totally tuned in to popular culture? When, in truth, was any such figure ever so tuned in?

I want Diana to have every honour paid and all respect, grief and gratitude expressed. I do not want her youthful beauty and popularity used as a weapon against the Queen and the Prince of Wales.

GEOFFREY THOMPSON
London SE14

The events of the past week have not changed the pros and cons of

Sir: At last! John Campbell's letter of 4 September is a clear, commonsense change from the outpouring of *faux* misery which has, alas, cluttered the columns of your previously distinguished newspaper as well as the predatory, greedy and self-righteous tabloids.

You seem to be using this event to whip up a frenzy of tasteless public feeling against the monarchy. One of your reports ("Charles and Camilla forced to part", 4 September) suggests that The Prince of Wales "may be booted and hissed at [the] funeral". The power of suggestion is great. Shame on you all.

J.S. ROBERTS
London SE26

Sir: John Campbell's letter of 4 September is a clear, commonsense change from the outpouring of *faux* misery which has, alas, cluttered the columns of your previously distinguished newspaper as well as the predatory, greedy and self-righteous tabloids.

With the self-righteousness common to republican sentiment, Suzanne Moore ("The Windsors still don't understand us", 3 September) overlooks years of dedicated service given to the nation by the House of Windsor, not least by Her Majesty the Queen and the Prince of Wales, ("closed away somewhere in their cold castle, unable or uninterested in judging the public mood").

The grief of the country will only be deepened by your columnists' exploitation of the moment in pursuit of their own constitutional agenda.

FR. LINDSAY MCKENNA
Halifax

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The grief of the country will only be deepened by your columnists' exploitation of the moment in pursuit of their own constitutional agenda.

Then I read your diary today (3 September). I suddenly realised what it is all about. I find myself sitting at breakfast with my eyes filled with tears.

See what you've done?

TIM CLARK
Bristol

Sir: At last! John Campbell's letter of 4 September is a clear, commonsense change from the outpouring of *faux* misery which has, alas, cluttered the columns of your previously distinguished newspaper as well as the predatory, greedy and self-righteous tabloids.

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SHANE CONNELLY
London NW1

The writer was formerly executive editor of the "Sunday Mirror" and deputy editor of the "Daily Mirror" and the "News of the World".

SHANE CONNELLY
London NW1

dissident voices

What right do we have to tell Charles how to mourn, asks Rupert Cornwell, while (right) Paul Vallely abhors the arrogance that demands public grief



Main picture: In Paris to collect Diana's body, the emotional toll of his personal life has taken its toll on Charles's bearing since (Inset) his 30th year

Photographs: Sky News/ Daily Record

Too many feelings, not too few

It has come to this, in this increasingly edgy ordeal of a week whose climax tomorrow in Westminster Abbey will not come a moment too soon. We, proclaiming ourselves grief-stricken at the death of a woman we knew only vicariously through the mass media, set fit to give advice to the man who had married her, fathered her two children, and for better or worse knew her better than anyone, or how to mourn her.

Of the quite unimaginable pressures that now bear upon Prince Charles this may not be the greatest, but it is surely the least forgivable. Diana, tragically, is gone. The void and the sadness she has left behind is huge. But we at least may experience our sadness with lines in a book of condolence, with a bunch of flowers, in a sense of bereavement shared. In this "liberated" Britain that resembles America more with every passing day, therapy lies in emotions openly bared. Let it all hang out – and if you don't there must be something wrong with you.

That is how it is for Charles, before the giant distorting mirror of public opinion. He is blamed, somehow, for bringing about Diana's death if he alone were responsible for the end of a marriage that should never have been made. Forget the high speed chase of a limousine driven by a drunken chauffeur in the employment of her lover. Had she not been coldly cut loose by the Royal Family and forced into divorce, runs that overstretched chain of causality, the accident would never have happened. Ergo, it is Charles's fault.

Then he is taken to task for suppressing his feelings, for showing a silence and reserve which some

people (hopelessly old-fashioned, we are told) still believe is the way in which grief should be clothed. He is criticised for agreeing to take his children to church on the Sunday morning. Why, it was asked, did he remain in the fastness of Balmoral, instead of returning to London, where his whole life has been a waiting period. In this field too, his performance in the next few days could be decisive.

Let me declare myself. The closest I've come to death was when I was 12 or 13 years old at a Berkshire prep school near Cheam school, which Charles attended, and which we used to play at football and rugby. When the game was at Cheam, we celebrity-obsessed schoolboys would seek out the royal locker in the changing room, on the royal games shirt and use the royal hairbrush on the shelf.

But our paths never crossed in person, on the games field or anywhere else. My subsequent feelings about the monarchy are surely those of very many people. For a long while I was an agnostic. The institution was distant, but basically harmless, above all an immutable part of the national landscape.

Then the scandals started, and at some point over the last two or three years, the desperation and embarrassment became too much. I crossed the Rubicon to republicanism. Not a passionate republican, but the belief that, on balance, we'd be better off without them. But being a republican is one thing. Joining in the general obloquy against the Prince of Wales, at this most anguished moment of an anguished life, is quite another. Diana deserves our sympathy; so do her children. But so too, and unequivocally, does Charles.

His predicament is unspeakable. As any divorced man, he must be haunted by a sense of responsibility. As a father, he must bring up his two children alone. Tomorrow, quite possibly, only their presence at his side will prevent him from being boozed. On top of that is the very survival of the monarchy, the job for which his whole life has been a waiting period. In this field too, his performance in the next few days could be decisive.

Yet Camilla Parker-Bowles, presumably his strongest source of physical and emotional support, must be kept more firmly out of sight than ever. Marriage to her surely is out of the question. And at this hyper-charged moment at least, as a result of his perceived ill-treatment of Diana, it is hard indeed to imagine him as King. Both his public and private lives will play out, forever in the shadow of the dead Princess, for ever young and inward-pointing daggers: in the centre is Charles.

In the media, he is depicted as cool, dour, and utterly devoid of feeling for ordinary people. She was one of us: Charles irremediably belonged to them. That image too is a travesty which merely underlines how upstaged and outmanoeuvred he was by Diana in the miserable battle that developed as their marriage died. True, he might come across like that, especially when juxtaposed with his wife, sparkling with empathy and humanity. In fact, Charles' problem is not a lack of feelings, but a surfeit of them. He is a man paralysed by his own sensitivities, and the indecision which springs from them.

Cast your mind back. There was a period, before his every effort was utterly obscured by Diana, when Charles was advertised as the last best hope for renewing the House of Windsor. He was the family member who seemed in touch. He spoke out loud about the issues of the day, including such thoroughly beneficial steps as the severing of the links between the monarchy and the Church of England. He could be witty and self-deprecating. Has he really changed so much since? The answer, everyone who knows him insists, is no.

But these are strange times. The days before the funeral drag by almost interminably, while the linked wheels of media opinion and public emotion spin in the sand, throwing up unquestioning love and simmering resentment in equal measure.

The apportionment is grossly unfair. We are not talking now of his fitness to be King. The future of the monarchy is an issue to be settled later. This is a moment of grief, and for no one more so than Charles. To tell him how to express it is an outrage.

Of shrines and superstition

The flowers are as extravagant as the grief. Not single stems, nor ordinary bunches but brimming bouquets which fill the arms of mourners who bring them. The gates of the royal palaces have become scenes not of mere sorrow but of a woe which is wanton, opulent and intemperate. It is as if plain Protestant England has been transported in place and time to a sultry Mediterranean Catholicism of shrines and superstition. Don't cry for me, Inglaterra.

This is not to criticise. Merely to observe a change. Yet there is something in the new reckless discharge of emotion which is not so tolerant of ways that is not its own.

Yesterday morning's tabloid press carried an unprecedented attack on the Queen for appearing "uncaring". She had remained sequestered with her family in her sadness. She had not addressed the nation. She had refused to break protocol by allowing the flag to fly at half-mast over Buckingham Palace – "The Final Insult," the Sun called it. Let the flag fly at half-mast," demanded the Daily Mail. "Show Us You Care," shrieked the Express in letters two inches high. "Speak to us, ma'am, please speak". said the unctuous Mirror editorial.

But it was not just the media. The public in BBC vox pops demanded that the Queen "come to the microphone". All manner of public figures offered their two-penn worth to the effect that, as one tyro Labour MP pompously put it, "a little bit of emotion would not be

amiss". Even the Prime Minister's defence of the sovereign was two-edged in its inverted assertion that the Royal Family "share our grief".

The Queen was so hurt that she took the unusual step of announcing the fact in a statement. Later it was announced that she would fly back to London early, speak to the nation tonight and allow the Union flag to fly at half-mast from Buckingham Palace on the day of the funeral.

There is something profoundly disturbing about the way she has been brow-beaten into all this. It is not the incontinence of the demotic outpourings I object to. Let the general public lament in whatever



manner it wishes. But what makes people think they may presume to criticise those who deal with their distress in a way which is different?

What we are seeing in these demands – whether couched in the bleak vulgate of the tabloids or the more elegant tropes of streetwise broadsheet writers – is a requirement that bereavement, like everything else, should be reduced to info-tainment. The Queen is not seen as a grandmother who is comforting two boys who will miss their mother deeply and who must prepare themselves for the public ordeal of mourning their mother with the nation tomorrow. Rather,

she is a mere extra in some media spectacular. She must conform to the demands of a world of homogenised lowest-common-denominator populism. If the people fail to understand what a Royal Standard symbolises, and when it should be flown, that ignorance must be paraded and all must bow to its prejudice. Such is the logic that leads to public hangings.

The Royal Family's silent suffering is alien to such a culture of noise. But there are times when silence is seemly and bereavement is one of those times. A family in mourning is comforted to receive letters of condolence; but it is not usually expected to reply to them until after the funeral.

There may be legitimate complaints about the Royal Family's failure to attune itself to the times. It may yet be that their private lives will come into public view to the point where the TV cameras intrude into much more – so that, as in the time of Louis XIV, the Monarch's subjects might be in the bedroom to see him rise, or where, as in a bygone Britain, the Home Secretary was expected to be present at the birth of the heir to the throne to ensure that no changeling was slipped from beneath the sheets.

But that is thankfully not now the case. In the meantime, the Royal Family should be allowed to grieve in the manner it feels most fit, and from which it derives most solace. And the rest of us should not be so arrogant as to impose upon them our own new-found exorbitant demonstrativeness.

The Impact of Fees

Higher Education Funding after Dearing

Tuesday 9 September 1997 Cumberland Hotel, London W1

A special conference called by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to examine the Government's funding proposals, in the light of the Dearing Report and the short and long term funding challenge for higher education. It will consider the proposals' implication for access, equity, employment, growth, standards and quality and for policy development and research into higher education funding. A major conference for university and college policy makers, business leaders, student service organisations, professional bodies, academics, local education authority members and officers and graduate recruiters.

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Dr Meredith Edwards
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Sir William Stubbs
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THE INDEPENDENT

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Save good design like it's going out of fashion

Sometimes I agree with Alastair Cooke and sometimes I disagree – and sometimes I don't know what the hell he is talking about even though I always enjoy listening to him if I can get my heartbeat slow enough, but the only time he ever made me get up off my backside and rush out and do something was when he said that he feared that people would one day stop making proper ribbons for old-fashioned manual typewriters – proper cotton ones, not funny plastic ones – so he had laid in a great stock of them. As I too, from time to time have pleasurable resort to my old portable typewriter (No batteries! Works through power cuts! Comes in two colours! Actually prints the hard copy as you watch!). I too rushed out and bought a dozen reels in advance, and I am now prepared for years ahead.

Manual typewriters are supposedly rendered obsolete by word processors and all those other things, but there are certain things they always did better. It is a great mistake to think that progress brings all-round improvement. For instance, I

remember the time 10 years ago that I moved out of London and had to take the video recorder back to the Notting Hill shop from which I had rented it for years.

"By gum – bit of a museum piece here," said the man, as he welcomed it back fondly (as well he might, considering how much it had earned for him).

"I did think now and then of trading it in for a better, more modern model," I lied.

"You might have got a more modern one, but never a better one," he said, looking at its controls. "This is way ahead of what they're making now, for the public at least."

"This one is better than the new ones?"

"Oh yes. The thing is that when they first started producing VCRs they thought people would use them for editing and making home films as well as recording and viewing TV, so they gave them lots of facilities such as freeze-framing, frame-by-frame viewing, very slow rewind and so on. Then they discovered that people didn't want all this and didn't know how to handle it – and they can still barely handle timers on their

VHS, as most people now think, and is still waiting for VHS to go away. I feel the same way about London 4-Z maps which are nowhere as nice or clear as Nicholson's Streetfinders and their other products. My wife has a similar grouse about Raspberry Crunch.

Raspberry Crunch is the only cereal she likes at all. She says that the best make by far, the nicest and tastiest, is Cheshire's. Better than Jordan's and Sainsbury's own brand and all the others. And guess which is the hardest to find in the shops? The one that people won't stop? Correct. She has Cheshire's Raspberry Crunch stocked up the way I have typewriter ribbons.

This train of thought came to me as I lay in the bath this morning. Why? Because our bath is another example of an endangered design. It has its taps, not at the end, but half-way along the side. I can't remember now why my wife and I chose this model (made in Germany, I think) but we have never regretted it.

For a start, you can actually reach the taps without pulling a muscle or

trying to use the toes, and without having to pass through an intermediate pool of boiling or freezing water.

You can sit at either end of the bath without having to lean back against taps.

This means that two people can get in a bath together, if that's your idea of fun, and neither will get the rotten end.

And if there's just one of you (which is the way I most often take a bath) you get a dazzling choice of ends. Sometimes when I want to do a bit of reading in the bath, I sit at the end overlooked by the bathroom window so that the daylight falls on my book. At other times I sit down the other end because it's warmer and also has a better view, out of the self-same window.

Need I say more? This is a bath for life. Unless it wears out, of course, in which case I may find that, like Betamax and clever VCRs, it has been phased out.

Which is why at present I am formulating plans to lay in a store of baths with taps down one side, in the same way as one does with typewriter ribbons and Cheshire's Raspberry Crunch.

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The Blair effect was there, but the sadness was real



Fran Abrams

The Prime Minister's phrase 'the People's Princess' more than matched the mood of the nation. It shaped it

Under the great flood of emotion and public unity which Diana's death seems to have evoked, a small, cynical eddy begins to swirl: has New Labour done it again? Has the Blair effect turned the death of a princess into part of the great modernisation project? Could the Queen and her family have been made to look stiff-backed, Edwardian and even uncaring this week precisely through contrast with the modernity of the Government?

Rewind, if you will, to Sunday morning. Look again at the words the Prime Minister used when he paid his tribute. What was the real message?

"I feel like everyone else in this country today. I am utterly devastated. Our thoughts and prayers are with Princess Diana's family, particularly her two sons. Our heart goes out to them." (Note the officially wrong "Princess Diana". Since she lost her HRH, people like the Prime Minister are supposed to say "Diana, Princess of Wales", but "Tony sticks to the expression the people use.)

Our heart? Our prayers? If Margaret Thatcher had used language such as this she would have been derided for believing she was the Queen. But when Tony Blair did it, the meaning of his words could not have been more different. What he was telling us was that he was one of us. We, the nation, not we, the establishment.

No wonder so many of those interviewed outside the royal palaces have spoken of how the Prime Minister's words had moved them. Ever so subtly, he was shaping the mood of the occasion, even infiltrating himself gently into the minds of the mourners. Take a look at how his statement ended: "People everywhere, not just here in Britain, kept faith with Princess Diana... She was the People's Princess and that is how she will stay, how she will remain in our hearts and our memories for ever."

The People's Princess. It may seem now that the phrase was perfectly judged to match the mood of the nation. But it did more than that. It shaped it. And whether by serendipity or by design, what it said was that Diana was "one of us". Ergo, she was not one of "them", not part of the distant, formal body into which she married.

The impression was strengthened by the news – it just slipped out, of course – that the Palace had asked Labour officials for help with the funeral arrangements. The thing was, they knew how to handle a major, modern funeral such as this because they had organised one for John Smith just three years ago. And, it was stressed, the royal obsequies did not cover this eventualty.

As the queues lengthened in The Mall and as the flowers piled up ever higher, the Prime Minister was visible where the royals were remote. There was business at Downing Street, though all done in an appropriately respectful fashion. A meeting with the Trades Union Con-

gress had been "sombre and business-like", a spokesman said. A conference on education was to be "low-key". Midweek, though, as the feelings of anger about the strictness of royal protocol built up (Why no half-mast flag over Buckingham Palace? Why no sign of any royal respects by Diana's coffin?), Number 10 was forced to back-pedal.

The last impression anyone would want to give would be one of tension between the Government and the Palace. So Mr Blair, who had phoned Prince Charles on Sunday to offer his condolences, was back on the line again the other night giving support.

Briefing the media on the call, his spokesman said the press could not expect the Royal Family to "jump in and be extras in a media event". The press was being unfair and unhelpful in criticising Prince Charles and other members of the Royal Family for not knowing how to respond to the public grief, he suggested. Of course the Palace understood the deep public sense of grief, and they were responding to it in the funeral arrangements that were being made.

Despite the supportive words, though, Mr Blair's actions continued to jar uncomfortably with those of the royals. Just after the press had been briefed, the Prime Minister told waiting tele-

vision cameras that the Royal Family were "trying to cope in a tremendously difficult situation".

"They share our grief very much and we should respect that," he said. Note: They share our grief. Then he did something really below the belt. He walked to the end of Downing Street and comforted mourners who had gathered there. In an eerie echo of the Diana-like behaviour that apparently so irritated the royals, he touched some of them on the arm and allowed himself to be clasped by the hands.

So, has the Blair machine turned even this sad event to its own purposes? If we hear a mounting chorus of calls for the modernisation of the monarchy over the next few months, should we suspect Downing Street of carefully engineering the whole thing?

No. The fact is that for once – and savor the moment, for it is a rare one – even New Labour could not take total control. Yes, Mr Blair touched the right buttons. Yes, he exercised considerable skill in doing so. But this time, something else was going on as well. The deep anger that had welled up during this week was not the simple creation of a few days' media hype and Downing Street spin. The genie that has got out of this particular bottle has been swishing its tail for far longer than that.

It is true that Mr Blair and his advisers have understood the situation well. And that is why they will tread very gently on the issue of the monarchy as time goes on. Whatever direction they take, though, you may be sure that they will take it with one eye firmly on "our" feelings.

We are not all part of this

I didn't know her – I can't mourn for someone I did not know

At about 7.30 last Sunday morning a friend rang to tell me about the car crash. He really thought I would want to know that I would be moved, touched, fascinated, involved – as he was; but quite honestly I would rather have been asleep. I was irritated that he had thought otherwise.

Throughout the week my irritation has grown, but now it is directed at myself. I can see, appreciate, accept that there is a huge wave of genuine emotion, a sense of personal loss and grief that I have no doubt is sincere. I am simply not part of this, and I wonder why not.

I'm not unique. There are a few of us; we chat on the phone, bemused, more engaged with our failure to engage than with the event itself. I have identified various different sorts of detachment.

There are those who did not like her; those who took "Charles's side"; those who doubted the sincerity of her charitable activities, or thought she was a neurotic bimbo. There are the sturdy royalists who feel she endangered the unique standing of the Royal Family and brought the monarchy into disrepute. These people appear to respect the fuss that is being made.

There are also those who are anti-monarchs, who have believed that royalty was running out of steam and that within our lifetimes the whole system would collapse and we would become a proper modern nation; this group have spent the week disgruntled. I suspect this is because their hopes have been dashed. Whatever else is going on in the national collective unconscious, it is not a desire to get rid of the glamour, the magic, the sanctity, of majesty.

But I don't find myself in either of these camps: I am neither resentful nor furious; I am bored and baffled. Oddly enough I could belong in either. I am a committed socialist, an anti-monarchist, convinced that the class privilege which flatters itself nakedly in Britain is the most destructive, and regressive element of our national life; and it is sustained by the monarchy. Equally, in as much as I have bothered to think about it at all, I think the Prince of Wales got a pretty rough deal from the media; and that Diana took on a job at a

not inconsiderable salary and the least she could have done was stick with the terms of the contract.

Furthermore, as a Christian, I am alarmed by the strong elements of cult which are evolving very fast – paralleling the life and death of Princess Grace of Monaco, though on an incomparably larger scale. I suspect we won't have to wait long for a mir-

acle to happen. Look at our teenagers, flaunting the name-tags or logos of those who sell them tags at sky-high "designer" prices. Look at our A, B and C citizens, paying for the privilege of being walking poster sites – wearing T-shirts proclaiming their loyalty to New York or Bangkok or some pissy beer. And now – billboards in schools? Schools are supposed to be places in which the truth is explored and revealed. I feel like Diogenes staring from my barrel at a brilliant parade of drivell

ing.

On the other hand, I think she was remarkably beautiful; I acknowledge how much she did for the charitable causes she adopted; I have spoken to people who had met her and believe them when they say that she had an extraordinary charisma – a combination of glamour and warmth that was irresistible. (I'm less convinced by those who tell me how intelligent and witty she was, but that giggle was very charming.)

But none of this adds up to an emotional involvement, positive or negative. I am, if pushed, saddened that she should have died, but no more so than I would be to hear of the death of any other middle-aged mother who left two teenage children: a fleeting though real regret for anyone who was killed so violently, a passing concern for the boys, though I do not have to worry about them as much as I should about other

children who lose their mother so. At least they know their father and the family who will continue to support them.

I didn't know her. I can't mourn for someone I did not know. Though even that is a simplification – I am perfectly able to be both shocked and grieved at the deaths of people I did not know, but that is usually when some sense of justice is touched: the victims of war, or famine, or political oppression. I think that is a different sort of sorrow.

What is clear is that an extraordinary number of people feel that they did know her; their grief is real, tangible and deeply personal. They knew her and they loved her. Or they knew her and they disliked her. I am asking myself if this is a realism and honesty in me, or some failure of my hard-hearted soul. Perhaps I am jealous, and what I really want are designer dresses and an international fan club (after all, when I was 11 I wanted to marry Prince Charles myself). Perhaps I have so over-refined my sensibilities that I hold myself too superior for such mass emotion and devotion.

I wonder, however, if some of my distance from this is because I am completely free of guilt. I was not interested in her when she was alive. I was tried to have to break up a dinner party because, to my mind, the guests wanted to watch her, to my mind, a trivial interview on *Panorama*. I never bought a single paper in order to see pictures of her. I didn't read the *Morton* biography. The bitter fact is that the media gave her to us, and the media, we have decided, killed her. Her brother said, and the nation applauded, that anyone who bought a picture of her had her blood on his hands. Well, my hands are clean, so I do not have anything to expiate. One of the social functions of all mourning is the alleviation of guilt.

Quite honestly, I am not entirely convinced by this as an explanation of my absence of involvement. I suspect that how we feel about her death is probably a blow-up mapshot of how we feel about her alive. I wasn't involved in her life and so I'm not involved now. Some people were involved, and so they have lost something I have not lost. I just want to have something interesting on TV.

act – already a tabloid newspaper has captioned a picture of Diana comforting Elton John with a reference to her "healing hands".

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The tabloids take their slice of the pie

by Suzanne Moore



radical change as that we have already changed radically. It is just that no one has really grasped how much.

And who would not want to claim this mood, to read the *zeigist* as part of some far larger, more easily defined project? Yet, now that Diana is dead, it is still no easier to sign

happened to Diana masks the continuing desire to still see more and more of her. We continue to consume her image voraciously as we ever did.

We are all voyeurs, all implicated in this. Do we want to see the Royal Family break down and weep, its supporters ask? Yes we do. Is the only emotion

of a man who lived long before the age of mass media. Well, we grieved for the children of Dunblane, and we cried for Jamie Bulger and the victims of Hillsborough and as long ago as the King's Cross fire we started taking out little bunches of wilted flowers to the site of these terrible tragedies.

Papers that routinely defiled Diana when she was alive now revile the royals for defiling her memory: amnesia is lucrative

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that is meaningful one that is clearly visible to the outside world? Yes, I'm afraid, is the way we feel. We want to turn outwards rather than inwards, to express something collectively as well as individually.

This may be seen by some as a kind of hysteria, a clinical condition to which many vulnerable folk have succumbed. Hysteria, of course, is a deeply patronising word, for it both feminises and infantilises the depth of feeling of the public. How can people grieve so for someone they have not met, ask psychologists, who base their theories on the work

Put simply, Diana was not only perceived as a force for tremendous good but as the biggest celebrity of all. This combination in a secular age is the most powerful imaginable. The total visibility that the media gave her made a more significant presence in some people's lives than people they actually knew. Just as some people feel that an appearance on television is the most real and legitimising moment of their lives.

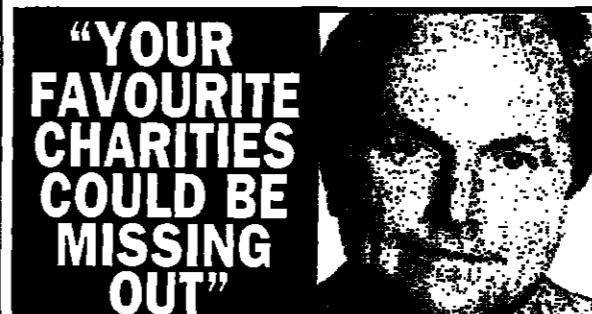
This, some suggest, is misguided. They would like all this emotion poured into a more politically correct cause or a personally religious one. They

would perhaps have preferred a more politically correct princess, but that is to miss the point.

Diana cut across all that. In giving herself permission to be vulnerable, contradictory, idealistic, she has given us that same permission. She used the media to show that to us, and we are now using the media to show it to each other.

There may be a point at which we say we do not want to see any more, that we have had enough, that there is nothing left to see of her or her mourners. But that, at the moment, is unimaginable. We continue to find what has happened to her all-consuming. The nation will stop on Saturday and the media, full of both its good guys and bad guys, will give the people what they most desire – inclusion in this mass spectacle.

It has always been impossible to speak of Diana without talking of her relationship with the media, and it still is. Her image is being constructed in death as it was in life, but the force that is driving it is the will of the people, the punters, the consumers. The media is one step behind trying to satisfy a demand that even in its wildest dreams it underestimated. The gulf between image and reality is fading fast, for the nation is re-making itself in her image in order that we might see ourselves as we really are.



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GAF

Sara Maitland

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Adrian Mitchell

business & city

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August car market hits 525,000 but high street boom slows and Dixons reports lower sales growth

Record R-reg sales 'not a sign of overheating'

Chris Godsmark,
Diane Coyle
and Nigel Cope

Business leaders yesterday urged the Bank of England not to raise interest rates further despite figures showing that car sales broke all records last month as building society windfalls helped send demand for R-registration models well past the half a million mark.

Car sales during this year's August frenzy reached a new high of 525,539, well ahead of even the most optimistic industry predictions and comfortably above the previous peak for the month set in 1989. Imports took nearly 70 per cent of the market, fuelled by the strong pound.

But Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford, the market leader, insisted the figures did not reflect an overheating economy or an unsustainable consumer boom. "My gut feeling is that the economy is not as strong as these figures suggest, certainly not at the same peak as it was in 1989. I hope the Bank of England does not look at these numbers and interpret them as a sign of significant overheating because it isn't."

He added that special factors such as the unprecedented level of marketing activity by manufacturers and high levels of pre-registrations to bring sales forward from September had been behind the record figure.

Support came from the Confederation of British Industry's latest distributive trades survey



McAllister: Special factors driving record August market

showing that the pace of sales growth on the high street slowed "markedly" in August. Sales volumes fell well short of retailers' expectations after a buoyant June and July.

Dixons, the electrical retailer, also offered further evidence that the high street mini-boom was cooling. Same store sales in the 17 weeks of its financial year were 11 per cent ahead of the same period last year. That compares with a 17 per cent surge in sales which the company reported in July.

The CBI's findings support other evidence this week in suggesting that the interest rate increases announced by the Bank of England since May might be succeeding in taking

the froth off consumer spending. It is expected to leave rates unchanged after next week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

The car sales figures yesterday from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) showed registrations rose 9.6 per cent in August, from 479,945 in the same month last year, easily beating the previous August record of 500,112 sales in 1989, the only previous time when registrations exceeded the half a million mark. However, the SMMT stuck by its forecast of 2.1 million sales for the whole of 1997, up from 2.03 million last year but well below the record of 2.3 million in 1989.

"There was clearly pent up demand from earlier in the year last month. Some customers waited to buy an R-reg car with their windfalls," said an SMMT spokesman.

David Archibald, operations director of Nissan, said the market had gone "a little crazy". He continued: "No one predicted sales on this scale and we see this as a blip."

Despite the demand from private buyers, the biggest rise in sales came from the fleet market, where registrations rose 10.6 per cent to 196,955. Strong sales for makes such as Renault and BMW contributed to a big increase in imports, which accounted for 68.1 per cent of the market last month, up from 62.8 per cent in August 1996.

Jay Nagley, an industry expert from consultants Quadrangle,

Winners

	Aug 1997	%
Vauxhall	70,266	13.37
Renault	39,876	7.55
Mercedes-Benz	8,764	1.67
BMW	19,784	3.76
Peugeot/ Talbot	41,345	7.83

Losers

	Aug 1997	%
Volkswagen	26,851	5.11
Ford	92,655	17.63
Rover	30,769	9.67
Jaguar	1,664	0.32
Nissan	24,059	4.56

Total market

	Aug 1997	%
Imports	525,539	(up 9.62)
UK-built	357,769	68.1
Total	167,770	31.92

R-reg winners and losers.....

	Aug 1996	%
Vauxhall	60,445	12.61
Renault	35,346	7.37
Mercedes-Benz	7,012	1.46
BMW	15,141	3.16
Peugeot/Talbot	36,777	7.57

said: "Loyalty to traditional British manufacturers is continuing to erode. The biggest improvements came from premium brands like BMW, Mercedes and Volvo."

Though Ford was again responsible for the top three best selling models, the group's market share dropped to 1.7 per cent, down from 18.7 per cent in August 1996 and 21.7 per cent in 1995.

Rover's slice of the market also slipped back further, from 10.2 per cent to 9.7 per cent. The figure include a record breaking performance at Land Rover, which sold 7,700 off-road vehicles.

Alan Pulham from the Retail Motor Industry Federation said: "This is sitting on ministers' desks and we can't understand

why it's not political and now the manufacturers and dealers have united on a solution."

August has taken a steadily larger share of the market in recent year. Last month will account for around 25 per cent of the record sales year of 1997 it made up 22 per cent.

Manufacturers and dealers yesterday showed their increasing frustration with the Government, which has still not decided to agree to the industry's plan for a twice-yearly number change in March and September.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades committee, said it was still not clear how much money from the free share windfalls would eventually reach the high street, and he believed there would be more to come.

But the survey showed there was no need to tighten inter-

est rate policy for now, he said. "Growth in underlying sales remains relatively stable," he said.

The survey showed a balance of 22 per cent of retailers reporting increased sales last month, compared with 32 per cent who had expected a pick-up. The detail suggested that areas such as household goods and furniture, where spending might be windfall-related, had slowed down sharply.

One worrying aspect was that the proportion of deliveries retailers took from overseas suppliers was the highest since May 1990.

But economists cautioned

that the CBI survey can be erratic from month to month.

"It is too early to interpret this fall-back in spending as spelling the end of the current consumer upswing," said Richard Iley at ABN-Amro.

Indeed, the retailers surveyed said business was still above-normal for the time of year. They expect a rebound this month.

At Dixon's annual meeting the chairman Sir Stanley Kalms told shareholders that the rate of increase in sales had moderated from the exceptionally high levels in the first nine weeks of the current financial year.

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MPs seek veto on Brown's appointments

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

MPs on the Treasury Select Committee could seek the power of veto over the Chancellor's appointments to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

In a seminar held yesterday by the influential committee, US-style confirmation hearings for candidates for its top jobs emerged as the front-runner for increasing the accountability of the newly independent Bank of England.

Some of the prominent experts present saw hearings on these appointments as a means of preventing a Chancellor of

the Exchequer from making politically motivated choices.

The Treasury Committee, chaired by Giles Radice, hopes to report within two months how it will carry out its enhanced role in scrutinising interest rate policy.

In a letter to Mr Radice in July, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said he would like it to take on this responsibility. The Treasury Committee has since begun a big consultation process.

In the week after May's election, Mr Brown handed the job of setting interest rates in order to meet the inflation target over to the Bank of England. But the Chancellor continues to set the target himself.

There was also strong backing at yesterday's meeting for the "Chatham House" rule of not identifying participants, but including senior politicians and bankers, academics, economists and journalists - there was much support for the idea that the Bank of England should be asked to give evidence on its broad analysis of the economy and government policy as well as on its narrow task of hitting the inflation target.

In his announcement of the Bank's independence, Mr Brown emphasised that its task involved supporting growth and jobs as far as this was consistent with keeping inflation on target.

However, the idea of MPs playing a role in Bank ap-

pointments emerged as the most prominent proposal. Experts advised that the US system of Congressional approval for appointments to the Federal Reserve Board did not lead to the frequent use of Congress's veto power but did ensure that the names of unsuitable candidates were not put forward.

The Bank is unlikely to have any serious objections to this idea. However, the Treasury Committee will need to act swiftly if it wants to get these powers included in the Bank of England Bill. With the tight Parliamentary timetable it will have at most a few weeks to influence the drafting.

Comment, page 21



Eddie George: Will answer to the Treasury Committee

were at historically low levels thanks to the high interest rates prevailing in the run-up to the pound's ejection from the exchange rate mechanism.

According to Merrill Lynch, the ratio of buyers to sellers exceeds 2.5 relatively rarely. Since 1986, it has happened only 17 times but on 16 of those occasions shares have subsequently outperformed cash over the following 12 months. The average outperformance was 15 per cent.

One of the reasons for the strong buying has been the relative underperformance of large sections of the stock market, which has been driven by a very narrow cross-section of companies. Stripping out the banks, pharmaceuticals and oil companies, which have risen in value by almost 60 per cent since the beginning of 1996, the rest of the FTSE 100 has risen by less than 20 per cent. The FTSE 250 index of second-liners has fared even less well.

Merrill Lynch is maintaining a bullish stance despite the expansion of the FTSE 100, its ratio of buyers to sellers exceeds 2.5 relatively rarely. Since 1986, it has happened only 17 times but on 16 of those occasions shares have subsequently outperformed cash over the following 12 months. The average outperformance was 15 per cent.

Employment is expected to fall to 1.25 million by the end of 1998. According to M. Turnbull, that will push growth in average earnings from 4.25 per cent in June to 5.5 per cent by the second half of next year.

"I think that money is being

spent on other things such as holidays and cars," he said.

Siget, the H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery group, reported its first interim profit for seven years yesterday, buoyed by a strong performance in the US, writes Nigel Cope.

In America, Siget is the second-largest jewellery group after Zales and profits there rose 16 per cent, boosted by a better product range and lower bad debt charges.

In the UK, performance was steady with profits flat but like-for-like sales up 3.3 per cent. James McAdam, chairman, said consumer confidence was strong in Britain but Siget had not seen a wave of spending prompted by the building society windfalls.

Siget is continuing its modernisation of the H Samuel chain. So far 51 of the shops have been updated and a further 119 will be refurbished before the Christmas season.

Like-for-like sales increased by 6.9 per cent in the period compared with an increase of just 0.8 per cent in the older outlets.

Another said: "It does seem to be turning executive search

into a spectator sport. It is pretty unimpressive and doesn't reflect well on any of them."

WH Smith admitted that Stuart Rose, the former Burton director, was no longer in the running. However, the group dismissed reports that WH Smith's chairman, Jeremy Hardie, had been keen to appoint Mr Rose but had been overruled by the non-executive directors, who include Pearson's chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, and Barclays Bank's chief executive, Martin Taylor.

The three internal candidates, Alan Giles, John Hancock and Richard Handover, are all still interested in the job though it is understood they are disheartened by the group's decision to look further afield.

Shareholders are worried that the decision to look further afield for potential candidates, including in Europe and North America, will cause severe delays to the appointment and exacerbate the feeling of drift within the business. "It looks as if they can't find anyone to take the job," one shareholder said.

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COMMENT

Although things are looking hunky-dory right now, by this time next year we could be seeing a yawning trade deficit, declining growth, a falling pound and rising inflation.

The economy must take its medicine regularly

There is still a strong whiff of the late 1980s about the atmosphere of central London, with its shortage of taxis and restaurant seats, and plethora of cranes and scaffolding. But there are also a few straws in the wind suggesting that the booming economy is already coming to heel. It is far too early to spot a trend with only a few signs or two to rely on, but economists are hoping that the purchasing managers' reports earlier this week and yesterday's CBI sales survey mean the economy is shifting gently towards sustainable growth. If this turns out to be the case, it will be an early and striking justification of the Chancellor's decision to give the Bank of England its independence. It will also vindicate the Bank's decision to increase interest rates for four months on the trot, despite an intense lobbying effort against it by industrialists complaining about the strength of the pound.

So far, the Bank's handling of interest rates seems to have been remarkably clever. It has also managed to take the steam out of the pound's ascent by issuing a statement which brought expectations about future interest rate rises back down to earth.

But even if growth does now slow down, despite the boost from windfall spending, the pound and its likely effects on exports will remain one of the big worries for the economy. New figures for car and high street sales show unambiguously that imports are climbing at an alarming rate. Recent industry surveys have also suggested a dive in export orders.

So even if the Bank has applied the right medicine, the economy will still have to go through one of the symptoms of overheating in the form of a wider trade deficit.

Nor is it certain that inflation will stay on target without further interest rate increases, even if the economy is already slowing. Inflation lags growth by two years or more, and all forecasts show it is on a rising trend.

There is a good case for arguing that it might climb above the 3.5 per cent upper limit on the Government's target without another dose of Bank medicine.

So although the economy is looking hunky-dory right now, by this time next year we could be seeing a yawning trade deficit, declining growth, a falling pound and rising inflation. Sensible policies since 1 May mean these will not be as bad as they might, but there is no guarantee that because the boom is short it means no hangover.

How independent is the Bank of England?

It was always an obvious criticism of Gordon Brown's "made in Britain" approach to an independently determined monetary policy that cronyism alone would in practice continue to give him a big say over interest rate decisions. Of the Bank of England's nine-member monetary policy committee, four are appointed directly by the Chancellor from outside the Bank. Of the Bank's five appointments, three are in effect Brown nominees

since the Bank's Governor and two deputy Governors, all of whom automatically sit on the committee, are all chosen by the Government. It might be argued that even the remaining two members of the committee are tainted, since they are appointed by the Governor, who in turn is appointed by the Chancellor. Though Mr Brown would presumably never attempt to influence any of these people directly on the day-to-day conduct of policy, nor could he be expected to appoint anyone who was overly on the other side of the fence politically, or who didn't broadly share his economic and social views.

In summary, how independent is the newly independent Bank of England likely to be? To work successfully, any anti-inflation policy requires a large degree of consensus between central bank and the politicians who ultimately control it. Any central bank which over a prolonged period of time pursues a policy which the elected Government of the country doesn't want must be doomed to oblivion. So these criticisms of Labour's approach to Bank of England independence might seem nit-picking.

Even so, perception is all in the establishment of a credible monetary policy and if there is any question of compromise or a political agenda in the way interest rates are set, then the battle is lost. The suggestion, then, that all appointments should be "positive vetted" by the cross-party Treasury Select Committee is a good one which the Government ought to welcome. The system already plainly works well in the US, where

the mere threat that Congress might veto an appointment to the Federal Reserve pre-empts the Administration opting for obviously biased candidates.

Raising the life time of these appointments from three to six years also seems a reasonable thing, since this would establish continuity and limit the Government's ability to change committee members that don't suit its political purposes. It is to be hoped that both these measures might be incorporated into the new Bank of England Bill, due to be published in about three weeks' time.

way than to harness together the fortunes of the company and those who run it? GEC has increasingly discovered that when it comes to recruiting and retaining top-flight executive material, then the blunt instrument of the annual bonus is not always sufficient.

So far so Greenbury correct. Where the remuneration package being voted on today comes unstuck is in the sheer size of the fortunes that a small group of executives stand to make and the modest performance targets they will have to meet for the cash registers to open. Admittedly, only 30 or so of the 200 executives to whom the package applies will be in line for "super options", but they stand to earn eight times their salary (not counting, of course, the annual performance payment topped up by a quarter in the form of bonus shares). Rewards on this scale are surely excessive in an established organisation like GEC. Amazingly, it only requires GEC to achieve median performance against its peers in the FTSE 100 to trigger the exercise of the super options.

The architect of this scheme is the unassuming Lord Rees Mogg, who retires tomorrow as a non-executive and chairman of the remuneration committee. After today's hubbub has died down, the new intake of non-execs, including Reed Elsevier's Nigel Stapeleton and Baroness Dunn, should take a fresh look at the remuneration package. They should start by telling Lord Simpson that when he decided to distribute GEC's cash pile, the idea was not to shower quite so much in the direction of his top executives.

GEC package gives too much to too few

George Simpson, managing director of GEC, arrives at today's annual meeting with enough proxies in his back pocket to steamroller through the group's latest and remarkably generous executive remuneration scheme. The victory will be a Pyrrhic one since a large minority of shareholders will have voted against the package while more still will have abstained in silent protest.

GEC cannot be faulted for wanting to find ways of rewarding its senior staff better after the parsimony of the Weinstein years. Nor can a scheme which aligns the interests of executives more closely with those of shareholders be a bad thing. If Lord Simpson is to turn his blueprint for GEC into reality after a long period of false dawns and share price underperformance, then what better

Psion puts faith in new model as profits slump

Sameena Ahmad

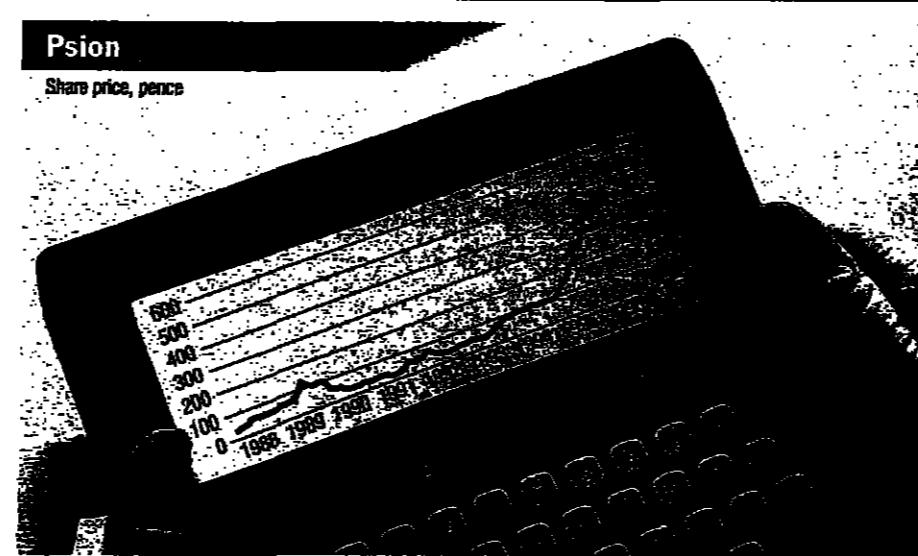
A profit warning from Psion, the hand-held computer maker, failed to leave a permanent dent in the company's share price yesterday after David Potter, its chairman and founder, boasted that the new Series 5 model was "walking off the shelves".

Shares in the company had a volatile session but ended the day higher despite Psion warning that the continuing strength of the pound and the impact of the Series 5 launch on sales of existing models would mean full-year profits failing to reach last year's £16m level. The share price, which has fallen 25 per cent in the last three

months, opened 35p lower at 29p, before rising to 338.5p and falling back to 337.5p, 10.5p higher on the day.

Mr Potter denied that there had been serious production problems with the Series 5, though there had been small difficulties with one supplier of plastic parts. He said the group would meet its 40,000-unit target by the fourth quarter.

The Series 5, which incorporates the group's new 32-bit operating system and cost almost £50m to develop, has the power of a large lap-top and a touch screen operated by a stylus. It will provide electronic mail, access to the Internet and the ability to incorporate



mobile telephone technology.

"We are well past the transition stage," said Mr Potter. "I am delighted to say this product has gone through the sound barrier. Reviews and reception has been terrific. The problem is meeting demand. Demand is so high that there is no stock left. We never said at the time of launch that we had put legs on the Series 5, but we must have – it is walking off the shelves."

Psion's half-year results to June were less impressive. Pre-tax profits fell 38 per cent to £4.1m on sales 20 per cent lower at £54m and gross profit margins a full 5 points lower. Strong growth in Continental

Europe, where sales rose 55 per cent to £23m, was offset by a £3m hit to profits from the stronger pound, a 54 per cent rise in research costs and extra staff and falling sales in the US.

Retailers, particularly in the UK, had been restocking the Series 3 organiser in the first quarter in readiness for the launch of June of the Series 5, which also badly affected results. Sales in the UK rose just 8 per

cent to £28m. Mr Potter said the UK restocking was reversing as retailers recognised that the Series 3 at up to £500, was targeted at a different market.

He said a £100 cut in the price of the Series 3 model to £299 would help that differentiation. Although sales in the second half would be stronger, the transition to the 32-bit technology and the strong pound

would mean profits for the year would fall short of last year's levels.

While Mr Potter was "paradoxical" about competition and the US remained a difficult market, he said there was no similar model to the Series 5 and that Psion's operating system EPOC32 was superior to Windows CE, the Microsoft operating system for hand-held computers.

"The researchers picked particularly complex journey issues which made the database had to answer a lot of complex questions," he said.

Which? found, for instance,

Liquidators win £1.3bn Cayman ruling on BCCI

John Willcock

Liquidators to the Cayman Islands part of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) hope to recover "hundreds of millions of dollars" for creditors following a court ruling against a former associate of the crashed bank worth \$2.1bn (£1.3bn).

The Court of Appeal in the Cayman Islands granted the damages against Chait Rashid Pharaon, a financier now resident in Saudi Arabia, and his company Pharaon Holdings.

In the late 1980s Mr Pharaon "co-mined" his own operation International Credit and Investment Company (ICIC) with that of BCCI, with the intention of legally acquiring US banks.

When regulators closed BCCI down in 1991, because of long-term large-scale fraud, it hopped ICIC in with the rest of the liquidation. In one illegal operation, for instance, ICIC managed to buy an American bank, the Independence Bank of Encino, California, in 1985 via another company, Attoco Oil.

First Gas raises funds for Philippine deal

A joint venture company including BG, the former British Gas, has raised £425m to build a gas-fired power station in the Philippines. First Gas Power Corporation, in which BG has a 40 per cent stake, will use the funds to complete the project, on Luzon island, which is expected to cost £556m. BG said the fund-raising exercise was the first in which the European Investment Bank had loaned money to an Asian power venture. In June First Gas agreed a deal with Shell and Occidental to buy gas from an offshore field in the Philippines.

IN BRIEF

Hambro reveals new plan for Saracen

JO Hambro has submitted new proposals to Saracen Value Trust after being told its initial takeover plan for the underperforming company was not feasible. The new scheme, which will cost £1.1m, offers shareholders a choice between receiving cash or taking shares in a new trust that will continue to invest in small companies but with substantially different holdings. Hambro's main rival, Invesco, is planning to offer Saracen shareholders a switch into Invesco's existing English & International trust, a unit trust or a cash alternative. The Saracen board will meet this morning to decide its next moves, but it is unlikely anything will be put formally to an extraordinary meeting on 18 September at which a third offer, from HSBC, is to be considered. Saracen shares fell 1p to 97p.

M&S director makes £278,000 on options

Keith Oates, deputy chairman and joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, made a profit of £278,000 from exercising share options. Mr Oates exercised a senior option over 37,815 shares at 254p and then sold the stake at 607.5p a share. He exercised another senior option over a further 51,663 shares at 329p and subsequently sold at 612p. The shares were registered in the name of Green-Wood Nominees Limited.

A spokesman for Deloitte & Touche said yesterday that they were confident they would be able to recover hotels and real estate holdings belonging to Mr Pharaon worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

BCCI was registered in three separate jurisdictions, London, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, and sets of liquidators have been appointed by each for each jurisdiction.

Last year the US Federal Reserve permanently barred Mr Pharaon from US banking.

Wetherspoon may open pubs in Paris

Andrew Yates

JD Wetherspoon, the rapidly expanding pub group, said yesterday it was looking to make its first foray overseas by opening a chain of pubs in Paris. Tim Martin, the group's chairman, said he was looking at sites in Reading, where we have four pubs in Reading. We also like the idea of moving into Ireland."

Wetherspoon has also embarked on an accelerated UK pub opening programme.

It plans to open 350 outlets by 2001 at a rate of more than one a week.

The group is intent on growing its presence outside London and has recently opened pubs in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Enterprise Inns is buying 94 pubs in the South of England from Whitbread for £9.4m cash. The pubs sold approximately 10,500 barrels of Whitbread-supplied beer, excluding guest ales, in the year to February 1997. The outlets formed part of the Whitbread Pub Partnership estate and are run as leases or tenancies. Licensees have the opportunity to transfer to Enterprise Inns agreements. Separately, Enterprise Inns announced that it had recently acquired eight former managed houses from Pubmaster for £1.6m.

Northern Rock brokers set up helpline

Wise Speake, the stockbroker to the flotation of Northern Rock Building Society, has set up a helpline for members to advise them on the best way of dealing with their windfall share allowance, which could be worth up to £2,000. Members can call 0191-201 3990.

Magic boost for Greene King

Greene King's chairman, David McCall, told the annual meeting that profits were ahead and benefiting from the Magic acquisition. We have had a good start to the financial year. With the continuing benefits of the Magic acquisition, our profits are well ahead of last year and meeting current budgets."

Home Office 2

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166MHz processor

16MB EDO RAM

2.2GB 3.5" hard disk

32.5 Video Modem

16-MHz CD-ROM drive

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64-bit Graphics using 2MB or 4MB VRAM

7-Bay Desktop case

All standard features below

Product code: 16-100-00-01, 17-200-00-02

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500+MB 3.5" hard disk

24-MHz CD-ROM drive

3D Accelerated graphics using 4MB

64-bit Advanced graphics using 4MB

MEGA and Microsoft Direct 3D support

ATX Design with 2 USB ports

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£1150.33

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Sema throws its weight around

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Sema, the Anglo-French information technology group, always had the air of a heavyweight, even when it was a fraction of its current size.

Though not yet a member of the FTSE 100 index, it can hardly be long before this fast-growing systems integration and outsourcing company, employing 150,000 people and capitalised at £1.6bn, is promoted.

Shares in Sema have outperformed the market by 144 per cent over the past five years.

Less than two years ago, Sema's share price stood at less than 500p. Today, ahead 7.5p after strong half-year results, the price is over £14. That reflects the impressive pace of change wrought at the group in the past few years by Pierre Bonelli, the group's charismatic chief executive.

What initially released the group's share price was the sale in late 1995 of Cap Gemini's 28 per cent stake. Before that, Sema had been 41 per cent owned collectively by Gemini, Paribas and France Telecom and trading in the group's shares was sticky at best.

Since then, Sema has not put a foot wrong. Acquisitions such as Olivetti's Italian outsourcing arm, Syntex, and BR Business Systems, which supplies the fast and timetable database for Britain's railways, have shown Sema's ability to buy potentially high-growth businesses for bargain-basement prices.

The company has also been highly successful in developing global critical mass. The US, which represents just 1 per cent of sales, has until now remained out of reach.

But the recent overhaul of its complex shareholding structure means that Sema is no longer classified under US banking law as a bank.

As a bank, Sema was severely constrained in the US, able to supply only certain types of financial products, such as billing and related software systems for mobile phones.

Now that the Paribas stake has been converted into a simple minority shareholding, the US is open season for Sema.

With more than half the world market in outsourcing and systems integration in the US and huge opportunities in telecoms, that is pretty good news for shareholders.

Mr Bonelli says he would be disappointed if the US did not represent at least 10 per cent of group activities by 2001.

Any concerns that Sema might get stuck in the maturing defence and energy market look groundless.

Half-year results to June, where profits rose 32 per cent to £26m, show that finance has overtaken defence as Sema's largest sector, with telecoms

growth a hefty 91 per cent on the previous year, boosted by acquisitions.

UBS forecasts £63.5m profits for the full year. Though a forward price-earnings ratio of 37 is steep, this one should keep going.

Hillsdown sticks with diverse menu

Little more than a year into the job of chief executive of Hillsdown Holdings, the food and house-building conglomerate, and George Greener is already speaking glowingly about his new charge. His sentences are studded with management gobbledegook such as "economic value added", "mutuality of benefit" and the dreaded "core competencies".

But the City will forgive him much more than this if he can kick-start a company whose shares have underperformed the market by 34 per cent in the past three years. On yesterday's evidence, there is a way to go yet.

With his strategic review completed, it is clear there will be no radical shake-up of the Hillsdown portfolio, which still

includes a diverse spread of businesses, including Typhoo tea, ready-made meals and Fairview Homes. There are no plans to sell the non-food businesses. Instead Hillsdown plans to withdraw from its red meat operations and sell a host of other businesses in packaging and leather with total assets of £85m. Talks on deals are well advanced and the company is planning a £20m write-down in the full-year figures.

But, looking at Hillsdown's half-year figures, it is clear that there are potential dangers ahead. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose from £44m to £57m. But at the operating level, profits at three of the four food businesses fell. The figures were rescued by a strong performance from the furniture and house-building businesses, which are clearly benefiting from the upswing in the economic cycle.

The worry is that when the economy comes off the boil, Hillsdown will hit the buffers unless its food businesses can start generating growth. At the moment they are very much a mixed bag. The chilled business is performing well, poultry was badly affected by a fresh viral outbreak in the sector which cost £2.5m, and the grocery businesses are struggling.

A clear-out of underperformers, alongside a decision to fix the focus single-mindedly on the Scholl brand, has already worked wonders for operating margins, which have jumped by more than a third in the six months to June. The effects of that on yesterday's interim results are muddied both by the £3.7m exceptional charge taken last time and the negative impact of the pound in the latest figures. At the pre-tax level, losses of £21.9m turned into a surplus of £15.4m, but stripping out the effects of one-offs and exchange rates, underlying operating profits were up 25 per cent. There is still a bit more to go for margins. But the real test for Mr Wallis and his team is to prove their ability to build the top line.

Scholl has strong positions in some markets, notably the bunnings to deodorant footcare products business and in sandals and other footwear sold through chemists. The hope is that further expansion into chiropody services at its 90 European retail outlets and new products will get sales moving.

Only time will tell, but there should be scope to pump more products through the distribution network. The management are also ready to contemplate acquisitions with firepower which could be worth up to £100m. Meantime, there are no talks with Schering Plough, Scholl's original owner, about buying the US operations, the one part of the business Schering still retains, but the possibility of Schering bidding for Scholl plc could provide some support for the shares, up 7p to 236p yesterday.

At that level, they stand on a forward p/e of 17, assuming profits of £22.5m

in the full year. Reasonable value.

Scholl starts to stride ahead

Scholl is a brand name which has fallen on hard times over the years. From 1995, the maker of the famous wooden-soled sandals and cork plasters was at the centre of a bitter dispute with shareholders, but new management, led by ex-Fisons boss Stuart Wallis, is at last starting to lead the group out of the mire.

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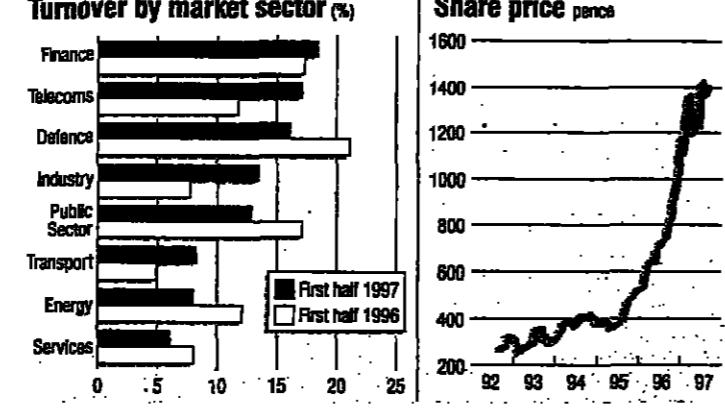
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Sema: At a glance

Market value: £1.58bn, share price 1407.5p (+7.5p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1997
	Full year	half year	half year	half year	half year
Turnover (£m)	596	678	927	423	560
Pre-tax profits (£m)	29.5	36.9	50.0	19.8	26.2
Earnings per share (p)	20.7	24.3	30.5	12.91	16.03
Dividends per share (p)	4.00	5.00	6.00	2.3	2.8

Turnover by market sector (%)



Source: Deloitte

Redevelopment will close Wembley for two years

Andrew Yates

Negotiations between Wembley and the Sports Council have been dogged by delays. Details of the new stadium were due to be finalised this summer. However, Wembley said it was confident the revised plans would soon get the green light.

Clues Hultman, Wembley's chairman, said yesterday: "We are optimistic that this plan will be agreed soon. The stadium will have to be knocked down. It will take two years to finish."

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4 September 1997

Royal Doulton looks to dish up £15m in cost cuts next year



Vardon whips its health clubs into shape

Andrew Yates

Vardon, the leisure group that runs the London Dungeon and Sea Life Centres, yesterday announced plans to rapidly expand its health and fitness division. The group is launching a £20m capital expenditure programme on its health clubs over the next two years and has earmarked another £20m for acquisitions.

Vardon also plans to expand into continental Europe by building a Dungeon visitor attraction in Amsterdam and

opening more Sea Life Centres in Germany. However, Vardon has turned its back on the UK market. David Hudd, chairman, said: "The market in the UK probably has too many visitor attractions already and we are not looking to build any more over here." Visitors at London Dungeon have been disappointing, despite a new water ride called Judgement Day, due to open in 1998.

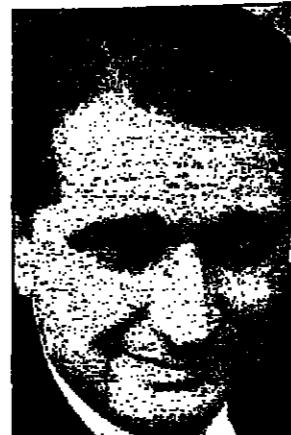
Vardon recently opened a £30m Courtney's leisure centre in Croydon. It hopes to open another two sites in York and Wembley by the end of the year and another four centres next year. It is also expanding its Metropolitan chain.

Nick Vardon, the chief executive, said yesterday: "The health and fitness market is growing strongly. We hope to make it a national business. We are also in talks to buy clubs from other operators."

Vardon announced a 75 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £5.1m despite a £500,000 currency hit.

Mutuality hero steps back from his cause

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



John Wrigglesworth: Setting up his own consultancy

What's left of the mutual building society sector is astounded at the news that John Wrigglesworth, the self-styled champion of mutuality against the dark forces of conversion, has deserted Bradford & Bingley building society for the verdant pastures of his own "strategic communications consultancy". If Mr Wrigglesworth's leaving, of all people, then surely B&B and the rest are about to surrender to the carpetbaggers?

"No, no, no. Bradford & Bingley are absolutely committed to staying mutual. My leaving does not mean they are going to convert," Mr Wrigglesworth assures me. "It was all amicable. Bradford & Bingley are going to be one of my first clients."

Mr Wrigglesworth will leave his job as director of marketing in October to launch his own London-based consultancy.

He will not have to

move house, he says, although he's flogging his flat in Yorkshire. He has a home in Clapham, south London.

Mr Wrigglesworth, 40, joined B&B three years ago from UBS, where he was just about the only person you could phone for a quote on the state of the building society market.

Bizarrely, Mr Wrigglesworth is also a former champion of demutualisation, having drawn up the master plan for Abbey National's conversion into a bank in 1989. Before that he had been an academic, an economics lecturer and admissions tutor.

"If any societies are thinking of converting, they should call me up first and I'll save them," he says. "Staying mutual is not a dead duck or a disaster. This lemming-like stampede to become banks will come to a sticky end, with converted societies being eaten stripped."

Sly and retiring former Eurotunnel boss Sir Alastair Morton has got a new part-time job advising the ABB-Daimler-Benz rail joint

venture, Adtranz. But it isn't the "last big job" observers

expected him to take when he

stood down from channel

company last October.

Instead Sir Alastair intends spending one-third of his time on Adtranz, one-third on a project as yet unannounced and the rest on various bits and pieces.

He says: "I had six months off after leaving Eurotunnel – I travelled to Antarctica.

South and Central America,

the South Pacific and South Africa. I spent most of the time just watching the world go by. It was very relaxing after 10 years in Eurotunnel."

"I'm now collecting a portfolio of jobs that interest me, such as transport, the structuring of major projects."

The sounds suspiciously like Sir Alastair mellowing with old age. I will forecast another big job at some point.

Some

Bluff should get them off the bit

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

A huge, grey horse will be in evidence at Haydock this afternoon and the only thing stronger than his massively muscular form will be the bridle and bit that forms the mechanism of his steering equipment.

Coastal Bluff would surely have won the Nunthorpe Stakes outright at York last month, had it not been for the malfunction in his bit which meant that Kevin Darley was forced to hang on to his mount's mane and effect an impression of a brave bearing down on the circled sanctuary of a wagon train.

The five-year-old's accoutrements will be checked so thoroughly today that they will surely not let him down again. The pertinent question will be whether he is good enough to hold off a refreshed set of new rivals in the Group One Haydock Park Sprint Cup. He beat Averti on the Knaveesine without a steering wheel and he should do so again, but now there are other foes.

Royal Applause was meant to be the champion sprinter earlier in the season until he was

embarrassed in the July Cup, and since then there has been the trumpeting of Danetree, the victor in the Stewards' Cup. The latter travels to Newton-Willocks with an impressive reputation, but as a handicapper he can hardly be led to the same trough as Green Desert, Ajidal, Dayjur and Sheikh Albadou, all of whom have won this race inside the last 12 years.

In truth, nothing in today's field seems worthy of elevation

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Coastal Bluff
(Haydock 2.50)
NB: Frequent
(Epsom 3.05)

considered worthy of another campaign. This decision looks like being as deeply Nash as an attack of stings until the colt recovers his reputation in the Geoffrey Free Stakes at Newbury last month. Another hard-fought success seems likely.

The opening contest bears the words "not water" in the sponsors' elongated title, which is exactly where punters are likely to end if they speculate extravagantly. When the changes come out of the pocket it should be proffered in support of the course and distance winner, Danace So Suite (2.05). Another who has proved himself over this devilish terrain is Polar Prince (2.35), who captured the Diamond Stakes over today's distance at the Derby meeting. That was in the stratosphere of Group Three company and the four-year-old has been highly touted since without any tangible success. Back in the requisite company, he should be a winner.

And finally, funds should be preserved for Luca Cumani's Frequent (next best 3.05), who is sure to come on for his pipe-opener in a white-hot handicap at York last month. The time for practice is over.

FIRST SHOW

Haydock — 2.50

Home C H L T

Danetree 2-3 2-2 2-3 9-4

Romeo 3-3 3-2 3-2 8-3

Coastal Bluff 4-3 2-2 4-3 8-3

Trotta 13-2 6-1 5-1 8-3

Averti 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

India Redot 10-1 10-1 10-1 10-1

Monaco 12-3 12-3 12-3 10-4

Mocha 25-4 25-4 20-1 25-4

Trotman 50-1 50-1 50-1 50-1

Each-way a 50/50 odds, places 1, 2, 3

C - Coal, H - William Hill, L - Ladbrokes, T - Totem

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Epsom — 2.05

Home C H L T

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Monaco 6-1 7-4 7-4 8-3

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Hestia 5-1 5-1 5-1 8-3

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sport

Gunnell has mind set on new hurdles

Mike Rowbottom hears how Britain's former Olympic 400m hurdles champion is preparing to bow out before turning her attention to her four-legged friends

Some time in the next few months, Sally Gunnell is going to sit herself down with five years' worth of press cuttings and read about a great athlete: herself.

The reports she has stockpiled, but not looked at, since winning the 1992 Olympic title are likely to deepen the realisation of all she has done in a career which ends at Gateshead tomorrow.

"It is just starting to sink in now," said the 31-year-old who, just three years ago, held the Olympic, world, Commonwealth and European titles at 400 metres hurdles, as well as the world record.

Her decision to retire – taken in Athens last month when a calf injury ended her ambitions of regaining her world title – came shortly after a similar announcement from Britain's other Olympic champion of 1992, Linford Christie.

Christie's first reaction on hearing the news was one of disbelief. "She's got years still ahead of her," he said.

True enough. But Gunnell has decided that they no longer need to be years given up to the Spartan dedication of the world class athlete.

"Linford had a total passion for running," she said. "But as

I said to him at the time, I didn't have the motivation to win any more. I didn't think I could go out and train for another year."

The strain of recovering from two traumatic injuries to her Achilles tendons had plundered her resources. And when her rising hopes and returning confidence were crushed down by yet another injury last month, she knew what she had to do.

"It's funny really," she said.

"But in January 1995 I was frighteningly fit – fitter than I had ever been. My goal was to break the world record again, and I think I pushed it a little bit too hard. After 1995, I was always having to play catch-up."

When I made my decision I felt an enormous sense of relief, as if something had been lifted from my shoulders. Now, she added, hunching her shoulders and rubbing her hands briskly together, "it feels like a new beginning."

She has, however, one remaining fixture to honour – a 200m relay in tomorrow's Bupa Grand Prix. Thereafter she is free – or relatively so. She has endorsement deals with, among others, Mizuno sports shoes and Berlei bras.

She is lending her name to Fit



Sally Gunnell talking yesterday of her new-found passion for equestrianism

Photograph: Peter Jay

Step gym company, an organisation which plans to open a number of clubs around the country in the next three years. There are plans, too, to extend the start she made in television when she presented the series *Body Heal*. Other projects are also likely to divert her. As she said of her husband in Athens

"The pressure is all on him now. He's got to support me and get me pregnant."

For the moment, though, Gunnell is preparing for the potentially difficult occasion of saying goodbye to a sport which has occupied a central position in her life for 15 years. "It will feel strange to run my last race," she said. "It is bound to be a huge

emotional thing for me. I'm not sure how I will feel on Monday."

Her farewell comes at the end of a week in which she, along with millions of others, has been deeply upset by the death of Princess Diana. The hotel in which she spoke yesterday was next to Kensington Palace, with a view of the flowers and cards wedged into the railings. She had brought her own posy of flowers up from her farmhouse on the edge of the South Downs to lay in tribute.

It was an absolute shock when I heard the news," she said. "Diana was the only one of the Royals I hadn't met, but she was the one I wanted to meet out of all of them, really."

The Angolan trip was not without dangers. But Gunnell's fears concern something nearer home – a horse called Eric.

She and her husband own a half stake in Eric, a highly promising showjumper, the other half belonging to its rider, Chris Eller.

Gunnell's Olympic ambitions have been transferred to a four-

legged runner – the dream is to get Eric to Sydney in 2000.

"Training horses is not a million miles away from training athletes," she said. "You have to prepare them very carefully."

Gunnell of all people is aware of the potential dangers of over-training. Eric is currently resting for three months in a field.

The next competitive decision facing Gunnell will be whether to follow her husband into showjumping. "He is already competing at some smaller meetings on his horse, Corky. It freaks me out a little bit when I see him jumping. I'm not sure I've got the bottle for that. But maybe I'll feel the competitive urge in six months' time."

The next competitive decision

Schumacher benefits from Brawn

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP

reports from Monza

Amid the ritual frenzy of this weekend's gathering here, Ross Brawn may be even more conspicuous than usual.

The large, bespectacled Englishman is a difficult man to miss in the Ferrari camp, and he has earned widespread recognition for his influence since joining the team as technical director at the beginning of the year.

Brawn has brought order, logic and a sense of direction, providing Michael Schumacher with the opportunity to exploit his superiority on the track. It is a combination that appears likely to deliver Ferrari their first drivers' championship in 18 years.

Sunday's Italian Grand Prix, however, will be critical to Schumacher's duel with Jacques Villeneuve. He heads the standings by 11 points, with five races remaining. It was 12 until yesterday, when Mika Hakkinen was stripped of his third place in the Belgian Grand Prix because of fuel irregularities, and the Canadian moved up from sixth to fifth. McLaren-Mercedes were fined \$50,000 (£31,000).

Another victory here and surely the wait for the faithful will be over. That, at least, is how they feel it and, in turn, is why Schumacher is wary. Emotions and expectations are in danger of careering out of control, a classic scenario for the Prancing Horse to fall flat on its face.

Never will Brawn's composed presence be more reassuring for Schumacher. They worked together at Benetton and won two championships. Schumacher will feel no one is better equipped, technically and temperamentally, than Brawn to complement his efforts in the cockpit.

Brawn regards Ferrari as the ultimate challenge of his specialised skills. Unlike John Barnard, the designer who preferred to stay in England, Brawn has brought his family out to Italy.

"It was a chance I felt I could not miss," he said. "I know what I'm facing and what is expected, but I may not have for given myself if I'd turned down

the job. There is so much potential and enthusiasm here."

"Even during August, when Italy is basically closed, we had no difficulty finding companies willing to produce parts for us because we're Ferrari. On a personal level, too, it's great. I'm having difficulty going into a restaurant and actually buying my own meal. The reception has been wonderful."

Ferrari's drivers joined the reception committee. Schumacher, it is understood, virtually demanded the team headhunt Brawn, and Eddie Irvine soon learned why. The Ulsterman said: "Ross has a way of explaining the car and what he is trying to get out of it. In the end it comes down to physics, and he has the ability to get that across."

Brawn apparently also understands the workings of a driver's mind, and has helped Irvine cope with Schumacher's pre-eminence. "There's always been an urge for Michael's team-mates to try and match him, when frankly he's simply the best out there," Brawn said.

"So I talked to Eddie about it and used the analogy of a golfer. I told him not to try and drive 300 yards just because the other guy could. Why not drive 250 yards and keep it straight?" Brawn's task is to keep an entire nation on the straight and narrow these coming days and Schumacher did his familiar best to slam on the brakes. He said: "Even if I win on Sunday, I can't think I have the championship. It is still wide open."

TODAY'S NUMBER

107

The number of international

Olympic Committee members

– out of 111 – who will vote

in Lausanne today on which

city will host the 2004

Olympic Games. Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Rome and Stockholm are the candidates.

Redgrave's crew to keep emotions in check

Rowing

HUGH MATHESON
reports from Lac Aiguebelette

Britain's Olympic champions, not just the ever-winning Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, but also Greg Searle, won through to their respective finals of the World Championships here in France yesterday.

The coxless four, who also included Tim Foster and James Cracknell, controlled their semi-final from the start, clocking 5min 57.85sec.

Italy fought hard in the last 500 metres to finish second in 5:58.43, but they must have been aware that the British crew were not at full power. "It is the final on Saturday that counts and there was no point

in lots of fireworks today," said Redgrave, who is one race away from his sixth world title.

The final, in which the French should provide the strongest opposition, coincides with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

"It's a very difficult situation," Redgrave said. "We'll concentrate on our race, but we'll be at home very much in our hearts."

Withdrawing from the com-

petition was not an option. "The world championships is a one-off event," Redgrave said. "People in the crew may not be again in the position to be in a world final. I'm sure everybody at home would feel the same."

Searle made the final of the single sculls at his first attempt and securing the preferred central lane in the final.

The women's pair had to re-organise at short notice when

knowing that my training times compared well and that they'd struggle to live with me," he said.

The British double sculls of Gillian Lindsay and Miriam Batten continued to exceed expectations by cruising to victory in the semi-finals and securing the preferred central lane in the final.

The women's pair had to re-organise at short notice when

Cath Bishop went down with flu. Francesca Zino was promoted from the eight to row with Dot Blackie in the semi-final and the pair were in second place until the final sprint when they were passed on the line by Russia.

A third spot was enough to take Jane Hall into her first world final in the lightweight single sculls.

Results, Digest, page 27

Pressure mounts for Farry's resignation

Football

PHIL SHAW

A former dumper-truck driver from Glasgow's East End makes his mark on the face of it, an unlikely bedfellow for those members of the Royal Family accused of insensitivity and misjudgement in the build-up to the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales tomorrow.

Pressure was mounting yesterday on Jim Farry, chief executive of the Scottish Football Association, over his alleged intransigence in the face of calls to reschedule Scotland's World Cup qualifier against Belarus.

The Labour MP for Clydesdale, Jimmy Hood, claimed Farry should resign after "an act of such arrogance it beggars belief". Donald Findlay QC, vice-chairman of Rangers, demanded an inquiry into a delay which had "caused the nation so much anger and embarrassment".

The match was originally due to be played at Aberdeen at 3pm tomorrow, at a time when the funeral cortege will be travelling over the M1. Despite Belarus' early declaration of their willingness to play on Friday, Farry continued to maintain that the game would go ahead as planned.

Following a stint as a soil shoveller and truck driver for a landscape gardener, Farry joined the SFA as an office administrator, was headhunted by the Scottish League, and at 25 became its youngest-ever secretary. In 1990, he succeeded Eric Walker to the SFA's top post. Five years on, he said he considered himself "one of the best administrators in Europe". A fondness for words like "cognisant" and "promulgate" cemented perceptions of pugnacity.

Likewise the lengthy memo Farry sent to the Scottish Cup finalists warning against excessive celebrating. He also put a bureaucratic block on a friendly at Inverness in aid of Bosnian war refugees.

His wish is that the modernisation of Hampden Park will prove a monument to his reign, to which end he remarked that the Cup final in 2000 might be his occasion when he is not needed. A reporter quipped: "Is it going to be played behind closed doors then?"

Farry joined in the laughter, yet his insistence that he saw "no reason to apologise" for the Belarus fiasco means his legacy is likely to be rather different. Perhaps the SFA's patron could offer advice on PR skills. Sadly, the Queen seems to have problems of her own in that area.

Bignall finds net for Shrimps

Non-League notebook

RUPERT METCALF

The early front-runners in the race for the GM Vauxhall Conference title are three clubs who were not among the bookmakers' pre-season favourites for the crown. If they beat Yeovil at The Shambles tonight, the 66-1 outsiders Halifax Town will top the table, while Southport (40-1) are currently in second place.

However, at present both clubs are trailing behind Morecambe, who lead the way with 13 points from five games and were 20-1 before the season. Following an opening-day draw against Leek, the Shrimps, as the Lancashire seaside club are known, have overcome Gateshead, Hayes, Kidderminster and Telford to give

their manager, Jimmy Harvey, a pleasing start to the new campaign and earn him the August "manager of the month" award.

"I'm not surprised at our start," Harvey, the former Tranmere and Hereford midfielder, said yesterday. "We're a good team, a footballing team. We're not well-off like Stevenage and others in our league. We can't afford big transfer fees, so we sign players on free transfers, we work with them and we allow them to play."

Harvey has made only two additions to last season's squad: Darren Hughes, a left-back from Exeter, and Kenny Mayers, a midfielder from Chorley. His top man this season has been a forward signed from Stevenage, Gateshead, Hayes, Kidderminster and Telford, a former Wrexham trainee, who

Liverpool look to have won the £3.5m race to sign the international defender Massimo Paganini. The 27-year-old is expected on Merseyside today to discuss personal terms.

Paganini's friendship with his former Inter team-mate and new Liverpool captain, Paul Ince, seems to have been instrumental in Liverpool's move for the Italian.

Tony Yeboah seems set to sign for Hamburg after agreeing personal terms. The £1m deal for the 31-year-old Leeds striker had looked in doubt yesterday due to what Leeds' managing director Jeremy Penn described as "unexpected further developments".

However, the Ghanaian international has now settled any differences he had with the German club and is expected to fly out early next week to undergo a rigorous medical.

Celtic are to be given 3,000 tickets for their UEFA Cup tie with Liverpool at Anfield on 1 October. It had been expected that no away fans would be allowed at the game because the Anfield Road end of the stadium is being redeveloped. But fears that Scottish fans would travel to the game without tickets prompted urgent discussions between the two clubs.

Gerry Taggart has withdrawn from the Northern Ireland squad for next week's World Cup qualifier against Albania in Zurich because of a hamstring injury.

Arsenal's manager, Arsene Wenger, wants referees to become full-time professionals and has called for the use of high technology. Wenger said: "Referees need more time to prepare for matches without having to think about work or business commitments." He also wants two referees to officiate in matches, with the responsibility for time-keeping taken away from them.

Bolton are giving a three-week trial to an Australian striker, Jimmy Tsatsas, who made an immediate impression by scoring twice in the reserves' 5-2 win at Notts County on Wednesday.

The Norwich defender, Carl Bradshaw has been imprisoned for six weeks for assaulting a taxi driver. The 28-year-old has also been fined two weeks' wages.

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RACE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP: Good day for Kent at Gloucestershire's expense while main rivals are frustrated

Lawrence makes a great mistake

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from Canterbury
Kent 305 and 432-4 dec
Gloucestershire 256 and 59-4

The dropped catch that brought Syd Lawrence to his knees yesterday morning could well turn out to be symbolic of Gloucestershire's condition (and their title hopes) later today after Kent's batsmen carved up their rivals' attack at will. They then handed the reins over to their bowlers who had whipped out

four of the West Country batsmen by the close of another absorbing day's cricket.

Syd Lawrence was but a bulkier shadow of his former ferocious self on this eminently ground. The beneficiary of Lawrence's miss of a low, hard and eminently catchable drive to mid-off was Trevor Ward. The Kent man had just half a dozen runs to his name at that point.

That was just the beginning of the torture for Lawrence. Not only was he forced to watch Ward piling up runs for much of the day, but also when the big

men returned in mid-afternoon

he was dismissed for three thumping boundaries as he went for 35 more runs in just three overs. And by the time Kent captain Steve Marsh declared some 30 minutes after tea Ward strolled off unbeaten on 161.

In the intervening period he had made bowling look impossible. It was his first Championship hundred since May 1996 (coincidentally yesterday's magnificent innings equalled his last one) and it could not have been more timely. His four and a half-hour occupation of the crease was studded with piercing drives and powerful pulls.

He and Alan Wells broke the back of the Gloucestershire challenge with a monumental third-wicket stand of 193 in 43 punishing overs. Wells was in equally commanding form with the bat and it was unfortunate that he fell just half a dozen runs away from a deserved century when he misread a pull to mid-wicket. He did have the consolation of passing 1,000 runs for the season when he reached 58 and of course it was his second fifty of the match.

Ward carried on regardless, untouched. By the end he had 21 fours to his name and his solitary six came in the last over of the innings. Perhaps the most telling period came when Ward was joined by Matthew Walker, who had only yesterday had been sadly lacking form.

It took the diminutive left-hander just 37 balls to thrash himself back into nick. He blasted his way to 51 – his first fifty of the summer – in the process helping to put on 76 in 40 minutes, either side of tea with

Lawrence and Walker both

having been bowled out.

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He and Alan Wells broke the

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consolation of passing 1,000 runs

for the season when he reached 58

and of course it was his second

fifty of the match.

Ward carried on regardless,

untouched. By the end he had

21 fours to his name and his

solitary six came in the last over

of the innings. Perhaps the most

telling period came when Ward

was joined by Matthew Walker,

who had only yesterday had been

sadly lacking form.

It took the diminutive left-

hander just 37 balls to thrash

himself back into nick. He blasted

his way to 51 – his first fifty

of the summer – in the process

helping to put on 76 in 40 minutes,

either side of tea with

Lawrence and Walker both

having been bowled out.

That was just the beginning of

the torture for Lawrence. Not

only was he forced to watch

Ward piling up runs for much

of the day, but also when the big

men returned in mid-afternoon

he was dismissed for three

thumping boundaries as he went

for 35 more runs in just three

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tain Steve Marsh declared

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In the intervening period he had

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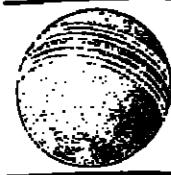
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Race for the pennant
Lawrence drops a dolly as Kent pile on the runs, page 27

sport

Sally's swan-song
Gunnell prepares for new hurdles, page 26

Teacher tries to keep Rusedski focused on semi-final

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from New York

Tomorrow, when British sport is cancelled on the occasion of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, Greg Rusedski will mark his 24th birthday by attempting to become the first Briton since Fred Perry to win a place in the men's singles final at the US Open.

Rusedski's coach, the American Brian Teacher, will endeavour to dissuade the British No 1 from watching television coverage of the funeral before playing his semi-final against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman.

Teacher will emphasise to Rusedski that the best gesture he can make on a day of mourning is to give the best performance of his career.

"I don't belong to your country," the 42-year-old from Los

Angeles said yesterday, "but I feel horrible about what happened. And I know Greg feels horrible. The only thing I would be concerned about is the emotions. I don't want him to be down going on to the court."

"I don't think it would be good for him to have the television on for hours in the morning. I'll have a talk with Greg and say to him: 'What's going to be served by you focusing on it? Give a moment's silence out of respect, then move on.'

"I think I'll probably watch [the funeral], just out of respect," the Canadian-born Rusedski said after defeating Richard Krajicek, the former Wimbledon champion, in the quarter-finals. "I mean it's a sad occasion. She was a great human being who did a lot for great things for the world."

Rusedski is determined to keep events in perspective. "Tennis is not even important

compared to that tragedy," he said. "Tennis is so secondary, it's not really relevant."

Whatever the outcome of tomorrow's match, he intends to delay any birthday celebrations until next week.

Teacher, who has helped the big-serving Rusedski to broaden his game in the 16 months they have worked together, appreciates the strength of the player's attachment to his adoptive country. "Greg feels a part of Britain, he really, really does," he said.

"He's made his home in Britain and that's where he feels most comfortable. He's extremely committed. You just need to hear the comments which come out of his mouth when he compares the two countries and this me about the bad things over here in America."

Teacher conceded, however, that Rusedski has tended to be overshadowed since the



Greg Rusedski celebrates victory over Richard Krajicek

emergence of Oxford's Tim Henman. "Greg's never going to capture the hearts of the people like the Henman thing," he said, "but I think he's been accepted and I think he's extremely well liked over there."

"It's a rivalry, but a friendly rivalry. It's not a jealousy thing. He

thinks: 'If I could work a little bit harder, I could get what Tim is getting'. He sees Tim do well and he would like to have the same variety [of shots] as Tim."

How much better does he think Rusedski's game can get? "It's hard to say. He's got a chance to win the US Open,

which is incredible. Here he is in the semi-finals and you've got to say there's nobody in there he can't beat if he plays his best tennis. I don't see him being No 1 in the world, but if he keeps going, you never know."

Teacher smiled when asked if he imagined giving such an interview when he first linked up with Rusedski before a clay-court tournament in St Polten, Austria, last year.

"I really didn't," he said. "I thought he could make real progress possibly in two or three years, if things went well. But then you see a player blossoming in front of you. It's almost like a domino effect."

Teacher, who once coached Andre Agassi for about three weeks — "Sometimes these things are about timing" — is respected by many former professionals including John McEnroe, who is working as a television commentator here.

Teacher, however, is not sure how much longer he intends to spend on the tour. "I don't like travelling as much," he said. "Next year I'm going to be doing it. If you ask me if I'll be doing it the year after, I would be able to tell you."

Aside from the technicalities of the sport, Teacher has had personal experience of dealing with unwelcome distractions. His wife, Kathy May, telephoned him on the eve of the 1980 Australian Open to tell him their marriage was over. He almost pulled out of the tournament and went home. Instead he stayed, and won the title.

Bjorkman advanced to meet Rusedski by defeating Peter Korda, who retired, complaining of a virus, with the Swede leading 7-6, 6-2, 1-0. Korda, it will be remembered, eliminated Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in the fourth round.

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Faldo and Parnevnik kept in shadows

Golf

ANDY FARRELL
reports from Crans-sur-Sierre

On another day of controversial statements and seeming contradictions, the simplest task was undertaken by Seve Ballesteros, the European Ryder Cup captain, when he named Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevnik as his wild cards. No surprise there, then.

Especially not to Faldo. Ballesteros, who had vowed to keep everything secret until the last minute, telephoned him almost two weeks ago, although then he did not know that Faldo had said to "call me collect". Faldo kept up the pretence on Seve's suggestion, as did Jose Maria Olazabal, who was given Miguel Angel Martin's automatic place but had been already told he would be in whether he qualified or not. "It's interesting no," Ballesteros smiled.

If the little game of "I know nothing" was innocent enough, that involving the injured Martin is not. Three letters appealing against the exclusion have been sent to the Ryder Cup Committee on behalf of the Spaniard by Jose Nunez, the Andalucian minister for sport. Manuel Ballesteros, Seve's brother, in his capacity as the president of the Spanish Pro-

fessional Golfers' Association, and by Martin's lawyer.

But as far as Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, is concerned: "Our decision is now taken. The Ryder Cup Committee faced an unprecedented situation. It is our obligation to give the captain 12 fit players at the time of the announcement of the team."

Schofield believes that an injunction taken out by Martin would be unlikely to succeed, although he may claim for compensation for lost bonuses that may be part of his sponsorship agreements.

Ballesteros revealed that in a telephone conversation on Sunday, Martin told him: "If I was one of your picks, I would tell you that I was not fit to play. But because I made the top 10, I want to play." The call is believed to have been witnessed by Schofield. Sandy Jones of the PGA, Richard Hills, director of the Ryder Cup, and Miguel Angel Jimenez, Seve's vice-captain.

Ballesteros added: "Miguel is the sort of person, some people say, he has a square head. I feel very sorry for him. I was the one who asked the committee for more time for him."

Schofield confirmed Ballesteros had not been directly involved in the decision to axe Martin, although he had con-



Under a cloud: Seve Ballesteros' round at Crans-sur-Sierre yesterday was overshadowed by the row about Miguel Martin's exclusion from the Ryder Cup team. Photograph: Alastair

veyed the views of the majority of the team that they could not see how Martin could be fit in time. Earlier in the day, in an extraordinary prelude to the official press conference, Ballesteros was clearly seething.

"Martin is trying to screw everyone," he said. "He is like a machine gun, shooting every way. He is a kamikaze going all the way for the ship. He has been badly advised. I thought he had more intelligence. He is trying to be a hero for the week. He is a hero for himself."

Ballesteros was scornful of any suggestion of Martin getting back on the team. "He was not welcome before," he said, a statement Martin's lawyer may

be interested in. "Do you think he will be welcome now? We would be out of our mind to change the decision."

As for legal action by the diminutive Spaniard preventing the Ryder Cup going ahead, Ballesteros positively spat: "Miguel Martin stop the Ryder Cup? That's like man stop the Ryder Cup? Lawyers can do only so much."

Later, and calmer, Ballesteros explained his wild-card selection. "Parnevnik has played fantastically on the US Tour," he said. "He knows all the American players and won't be intimidated. Faldo has a tremendous record in the Ryder Cup. If I had to bet on my life playing the last hole

and trust someone, Nick Faldo would be my choice."

"That's very nice, but I hope he doesn't do it," Faldo, who will be playing for a record 11th time, said. "What was I meant to say?" he asked of the subterfuge. "For a while I didn't know, Seve really was keeping everything close to his chest. I'm really looking forward to it. It is something to really focus on for the next two weeks. I'll be prepared as much as I can."

Parnevnik, who was told on Tuesday after Martin was withdrawn, was hoping to be able to wear his trademark upturned cap. The Swede, who will be making his debut, added: "It is a big honour for Seve to tell you

you are needed on the team. I'm thrilled and relieved at the same time. Even if you are not trying to think about it, it is at the back of your mind."

By fair means or foul.

Europe in three weeks and it is the best this continent could put out. Ballesteros compared it to the team that won for the first time on American soil at Muirfield Village in 1987.

"I thought it would take a long time to have a team as good as that, but I am glad I was wrong," he said. "I'm not going to Valderrama to defend or retain the Ryder Cup. I am very confident we are going to win."

Orr sets the pace, page 27

Sheringham pulls out with cracked ribs

Football

GLENN MOORE

The entangled fates of Teddy Sheringham and Paul Scholes were given another twist yesterday when Sheringham withdrew from the England squad to play Moldova next Wednesday.

Scholes, whose hopes of assuming Eric Cantona's mantle at Old Trafford were dented by Sheringham's £2.5m summer arrival, now looks like taking the older man's place in the World Cup team at Wembley.

Sheringham withdrew after a bone scan revealed him to have two broken ribs. He has been carrying the injury since Manchester United's match at Leicester 13 days ago, but had assumed he was just suffering from bruised ribs. He then played against Everton — when he scored his first goal for United — and Coventry. He will now miss United's opening Champions' League game against Kosice, in Slovakia, on 27 September.

While the England coach is disappointed at losing Sheringham from Wednesday's match, he is more concerned at the prospect of being without him in Rome on 11 October.

"He has shown a lot of character to keep playing, but he will now be out for two to three

weeks," Hoddle said. "Then he will need to get match fit again, so he must be a doubt for Italy.

People talk about the SAS (Shearer and Sheringham), now we could lose both of them. However, I have five other forwards in this squad."

One of them is Emile Heskey,

who will now stay with the squad instead of dropping down to the Under-21 team. Scholes, though, is the most likely replacement. He impressed after making his debut last summer, playing especially well against Italy in *Le Tournoi de France* when he linked well with Ian Wright.

That was an advantage of going to *Le Tournoi*, Hoddle said. "I was able to groom a couple of players and Scholes was one of them. He has ability and temperament, it is very astute on the ball, has good feet and vision. He makes good runs beyond the ball and has an astute football brain."

"I wanted to bring him in earlier but he was not playing enough for United. Once I did call him in I saw enough on his first day of training to suggest he has immense talent."

"One of the great things about him is his versatility. I learned last summer that come the World Cup the lucky coaches will be the ones who have four players who can play in

three different positions. Scholes is one of those, as is David Beckham and Rob Lee."

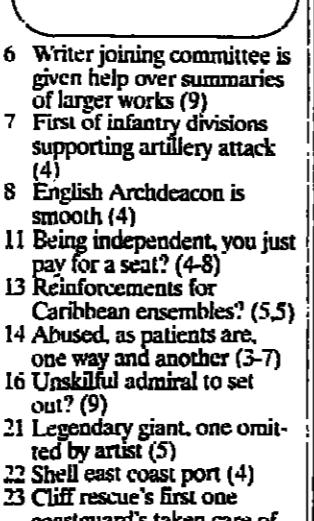
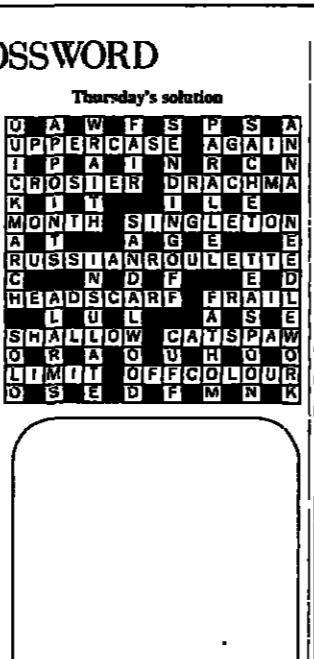
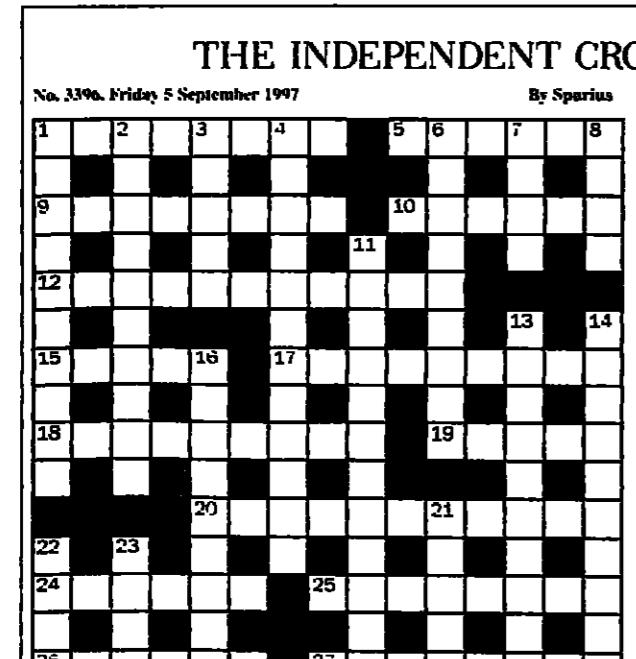
Lee agreed. "I think being versatile keeps you in the squad," said the Newcastle captain, who has played well for Hoddle after being discarded by Terry Venables for *Euro 96*.

"Venables picked from about 13 or 14 players, the rest of us were squad players," Lee said. "It does help the spirit when everyone knows that they are in form with their club and doing well at training they have a chance of playing. The mood here is as good as it would be at a club."

Lee admitted, though, that England's preparations had been affected by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "You can't get away from it. The players talk about it and a lot of us watch it on TV in our rooms," he said. "It has been like one of your family dying. I don't think a lot of people realised how much it would affect them. The whole country is grieving."

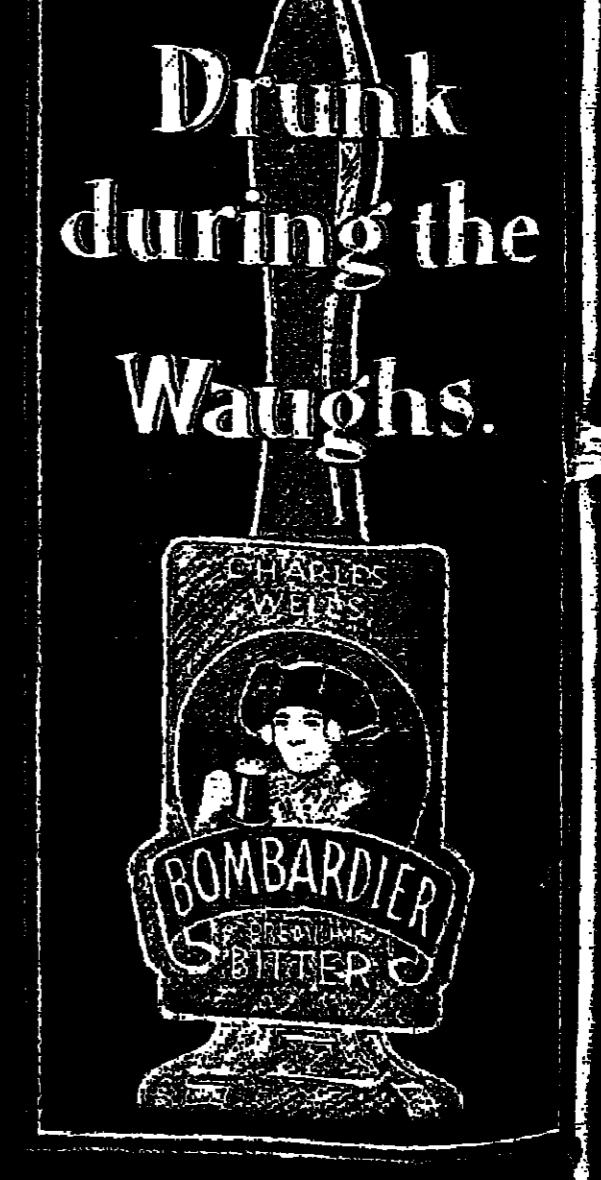
Referring to the postponement of Newcastle's match at Liverpool last Sunday, he added: "None of the players wanted to go to the game to go ahead. It would have been impossible to play then or on the day of the funeral."

Scottish FA chief under fire, page 26



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